

GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO WORSHIP

We are immediately adopting all federal, state, and municipal requirements and recommended practices. Some are legal requirements, some are guidelines, but every one reflects common-sense, caution, and care for one another.

NEW BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- **Masks are required for everybody at all times.** This is required by law. More importantly, it demonstrates our concern for the well-being of the people around us.
- **Keeping our distance from one another (social distancing) is absolutely essential to resuming worship.** Pews are marked off to help achieve safe spacing. Families may sit together in the same pew but we must observe the spacing around us. This means many of you will not be able to sit in your accustomed pews. We ask for your good-natured acceptance of this temporary necessity. Social distancing must also apply in the parking lot or church steps.
- **There can be no food in the church.** We must suspend fellowship time (coffee hour) for now. We are also suspending Communion until we can find a way to restore it with safety, beauty, and sacredness.
- **If you are not feeling well, or if you or any member of your family has been exposed to somebody with the Coronavirus you must stay home.**
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been mounted at the sanctuary doors. Please use them.
- We have removed the Bibles, hymnals, and tissue boxes from the pews because they cannot be easily sanitized.
- Weather permitting, we will be keeping doors and windows open for maximum air flow.
- We will sanitize the sanctuary, before and after worship.

CHANGES TO WORSHIP

- It is very disappointing, but there can be **no congregational singing** because one of the most dangerous ways of spreading this highly contagious virus is through the tiny droplets in our breath expelled by singing. We will, however, be using more recorded music of professional musicians.
- **No passing of the peace** – not even the “elbow bumps.” We must maintain a safe distance from each other for the time being.
- You are asked to **place your offering in the baskets at the back of the sanctuary** as you enter or leave worship. We will not receive your offerings by the deacons moving through the sanctuary.
- You must **pick up your bulletin yourself** – they cannot be handed to you.

We know that these precautions are awkward and deprive us of some of the most important reasons we want to come to church together. Yet they are legally required and they are just plain common sense. It is imperative that every person coming to worship can wholeheartedly agree to comply with them for everyone's well-being.