



## **Returning to In-Person Worship at First Presbyterian Church**

(adopted by Session, August 19, 2020)

### **Generally**

- **We are planning to return to worship beginning on Sunday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m.** We will continue worshipping at 9:30 each Sunday in September since there will be no Sunday School until at least October. We will not celebrate the Lord's Supper on September 6.
- **Worship attendance will be limited to permit social distancing** (six-feet from fellow worshippers and 12 feet from those leading worship). **Masks will be required**, including for worship leaders except when they are speaking, playing, or singing. Please bring your own mask but masks will be available for those who arrive without one.
- **Services will still be recorded and posted on the church You Tube channel as soon as practicable following the service.**

### **Before Sunday Morning**

- **You must sign up each week if you plan to attend worship.** Registration is required to control numbers, to let those interested in attending know if there is room, and to facilitate contact tracing if that is later necessary. Each week beginning on Monday, you can pre-register online on the website or by calling Marie in the office to sign up online for you. **Visitors are welcome and you can come even if you haven't pre-registered – but you will be asked to sign the register on that Sunday and to wait until those who pre-registered are seated.**
- **We will send out an order of service with the hymns each week by email. Please print it out and bring it with you.** The Deacon ushers (who will be masked and wearing gloves) will also have copies but we are trying to reduce contact and waste. We do not plan to use the hymnals, for the time being.

### **When You Arrive**

- **Please arrive early.** With social distancing and temperature checks, entry into the sanctuary will be slower and more deliberate.
- **When parking**, please try to leave one space between your car and other cars to the extent possible. This will aid social distancing when everyone leaves after worship.
- **Masks are required** for ages 3 and up. Please keep six feet of social distance. We want to share love with each other rather than germs!

- **Please enter through the double red doors off the main parking lot (and not through the Evans Street door or the lower parking lot door.)** When you leave, you may exit through any door.
- **Temperatures will be checked when you arrive by our Parish Nurse, Dawn, and a team of volunteers led and trained by her.** As noted on the pre-registration form, please do not come if you have been exposed to someone with Covid19 or you are feeling at all unwell or have any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, headache, sore throat, cough, congestion or a runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue or muscle aches. Anyone whose temperature is not under 100 will be asked to return home. While we are all working together to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, we cannot eliminate all risk. Please use your best judgment and consult with your physician whether you should join us for public worship even with the mitigation steps we are taking.
- **Because of social distance requirements, please move immediately to your pew seats rather than visiting with others. And, please be flexible about which pew you sit in since alternate pews will be roped off and seating will be limited.** Some people will even have to sit in the front! We will have helpful six-foot guides to help us all remember our distances. If you are part of an extended family "quaran-teaming," sitting together will enable more people to fit in the sanctuary and still maintain social distances.

### During The Service

- **We will not be singing hymns together, but we will have music! We will not pass the offering plate, but you will be able to make offerings to God!** You can place your **offering** in a centrally located offering plate either as you enter the sanctuary or as you leave. Please also consider the online giving option!
- **For parents with children:** because we are taking re-opening one stage at a time, we will not be providing childcare or Young Children and Worship during September. Families will be able to check out Worship Bags for Young Presbyterians with age-appropriate activities and materials inside. For the time being, these worship bags will be the "property" of your family. New activity sheets will be available for each service. The service can be heard in the Community Room, which will be an available space for families who find that they need a little more space and privacy (with social distancing) during the service.
- **Bathrooms** will be available, but please remember only one person or family at a time inside each bathroom.

### At the Close of the Service

- **To help with social distancing, the ushers will direct exiting from the pews, beginning at the back.** Feel free to visit with one another outside the building, where it is easier to stand a safe distance apart. Sadly, we must ask that you please don't hug or shake hands.
- Following worship, the Deacons will wipe down and disinfect commonly touched surfaces. The counting team will gather the offering.