



September 3, 2020

Dear Congregation,

As we all know, cold weather is fast approaching. We are grateful for our big tent to shade us from the sun, but we will have to move indoors eventually. A committee of church members was formed and met to discuss a plan for holding worship services indoors. The two objectives of the committee's plan were 1) to allow the congregation to gather indoors safely, and 2) to allow as many of our members to attend in person as possible. To that end, here is the plan the committee developed and that the Session has approved.

Sunday, October 4, will be our first indoor worship service. Until that date, we will continue worshipping outdoors at 9:30am regardless of temperature, so please dress for the weather. Beginning on October 4, we will have two morning worship services. The first service will be at 9:30am, and all who attend will be required to wear face masks for the duration of the service. The second service will be at 11:00am, and face masks will be optional.

At both services, we will practice social distancing between family units. For those who are still concerned about attending in-person worship services, we will continue to live stream our service, but only the 9:30 service will be live streamed. If you are unable both to join us in person and watch the live stream, the sermon will be posted online shortly after the 9:30 service concludes.

If you choose to attend the 9:30 service where masks are required, everyone must enter the church via the south front doors, and at the end of the service everyone must exit via the west side doors. Greeters will be stationed outside the front doors before the service to hand out masks in case anyone forgets theirs. The expectation is that everyone must wear a face mask for the entirety of the service, including while singing, in order to ensure minimal spread of germs through the air. The music team will have a Plexiglas barrier in between them and the congregation. If you feel you need to take your mask off for a time, you may exit the sanctuary to the narthex to do so.

If you choose to attend the 11:00 service where masks are optional, we will still have greeters stationed outside the front doors in case anyone would like a mask. The music team will still have the Plexiglas barrier in front of them. Also make note that the nursery will only be offered at the 11:00 service. Face masks will be optional for the nursery workers just as they will be optional for those in the worship service.

In between the two services, there will be a quick cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs and bathrooms).

We ask that those who attend the 9:30 service socialize outside the sanctuary in the parking lot after the service so that cleaning can begin promptly.

If any of our members who attend services do test positive for COVID-19, in order to mitigate the spread of the virus, per CDC guidelines, we will suspend our in-person worship services for two weeks and live stream only.

We recognize that those of us who developed this plan are fallible and finite in our understanding. Therefore, beginning this Sunday, some of the committee members and/or elders will be stationed at the back of the tent after our service to listen to any concerns and answer any questions you may have. This is your chance to give us feedback on this plan. We will hold this forum next Sunday after the service as well. If there's anything we've overlooked, please let us know.

We also recognize that this is not the ideal scenario for gathering together as the body of Christ. But these restrictions are only temporary. Over the past six months, you have all been gracious and flexible as we've had to make difficult decisions, and we are eminently grateful for that. We will all continue to need to be gracious and flexible for a while. Please also continue to join the Session in prayer for the wisdom and grace to know how to stay safe, honor our government, love our neighbors as ourselves, and, most importantly, worship and glorify the one true living God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

TCPC Session