

We take seriously the church's calling to gather together, and the work of spiritual formation that happens when we do. But we also take seriously our calling to love our neighbors and to protect and welcome the least and the most vulnerable among us. So in order to lessen the risks for everybody involved, things will look a little different when we return. Please read the following directives that are in place at the guidance and instruction of our Bishop and the Illinois Great Rivers Conference:

- All Illinois state guidelines and regulations must be followed by the directive of the Bishop.
- **We will limit the number of people allowed in the sanctuary to 50.** Services will continue to stream online for those that would like to continue participating from home. **YOU MUST RSVP here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949A5AC2FA1F49-july> order to attend worship services.
- We are asking that everybody wear a mask (except for children 2 and under, people who cannot physically remove one, or anybody with difficulty breathing for whom a mask could be harm rather than a help). If you do not already have a mask, we will provide one for you at the door.
- **We will ENTER the church only using the front doors on 2nd Street** which will be propped open to increase ventilation and avoid the touching of door handles. At the end of the service, all that are able will **EXIT using the doors at the top of the stairs directly outside of the sanctuary doors.** Again, these doors will be propped open at the end of the church service.
- Every person (not living in the same house) must maintain 6 feet social distancing the entire time while on church property and throughout the service, and we will have certain pews/sections of pews roped off to encourage social distancing.
- There will not be any fellowship/coffee time before or after the service, and pews will be dismissed row by row (like at a wedding) as we leave.
- We will have increased sanitation practices, including hand sanitizing stations at the entrances and exits.
- Only 1 person will be allowed in the bathroom at a time. We will be asking people to use sanitizing wipes (which will be made available to you) on the faucet/door handles if anybody needs to use the restroom on Sunday. Please dispose of these wipes in the trash cans.
- There will be no nursery or Sunday school for this initial phase of our return. In worship, there will be no congregational singing or praying (as singing can cause air particles to escape through masks) but we will find some way to incorporate music and perhaps solo performances as well. We will also be removing hymnals and Bibles for the time being to avoid multiple people touching the same one, and to provide one less thing to sanitize each week. Feel free to bring your own Bible from home if you wish. There will be no passing of plates for either communion or offering (if you would like to give to the church you can continue to do so by mailing checks or giving online, otherwise the offering plates will be placed at the back of the sanctuary so that people can give on their way out).
- Once a worship service is over, there will not be fellowship time and everyone (if able) will exit at the top of the stairs outside of the sanctuary.
- Leadership Meetings – People may gather in groups of up to 50, wearing masks as recommended, and practicing appropriate social distancing.
- Missional Service – People may gather in groups of up to 50, wearing masks as recommended, and practicing appropriate social distancing. Mission trips outside of the local area can be held but must follow state and federal guidance on travel safety.
- Church Staff – Church staff, pastors, and other workers using the church facility are allowed to return to work in the church building but working conditions must follow the Department of Public Health approved safety guidance depending upon risk level. Remote, at-home, and virtual office work is strongly encouraged wherever possible. Continue to attend to cleaning and sanitizing the office. Pay particular attention to high touch surfaces and cleaning hands after dealing with the offering.

- **People over 65 years old please decide what is best for you about returning to church services. We will continue to provide an online church service until all are safely allowed to return to the church in person. Those people with compromised immunity, those with respiratory illness or injury, others who are at a higher risk of dying from COVID-19, those who have tested positive for COVID-19, and those who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days should continue to remain isolated and avoid gatherings of any size until they are given the all-clear. This includes church staff, volunteers, parishioners, visitors, renters, facility users, and guests.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.