

**Covenant Presbyterian Church – Safety Protocols for the Return to Indoor Worship**  
***Beginning November 8, 2020***

**Guidelines and Protocols**

- We will adhere to federal and state guidelines for reopening.
- We will continue to seek guidance from medical professionals.
- We will stay informed on current trends of the of COVID-19 virus.
- We will observe social distancing protocols and require congregants to properly wear masks covering the nose and mouth throughout their time inside the Church facility.
- Should an individual experience any COVID-19 related symptoms and/or be diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days from the time of worship, they are asked to contact the church office immediately. Individuals who attended that service will be notified by the church office of the case while maintaining the confidentiality of the person diagnosed.

**What you need to know before attending worship**

- Indoor worship begins at 9 AM in the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to arrive by 8:45 as the live streaming of the service will begin promptly at 9 AM. This is to ensure safe seating and to show hospitality to those participating in worship live online.
  - Worship services will continue to be live streamed via Covenant's Facebook page and recorded for posting to Covenant's YouTube channel.
  - You will need to pre-register through a link provided in a weekly email from the Church office. Weekly registration will be required for each Sunday's service.
  - The maximum number of attendees to be safely seated in the Sanctuary is 74. This includes congregants, camera and sound operators, church staff, and others leading worship seated in the chancel and the pews.
  - Within the registration process, you will be required to answer a series of health questions.
  - Social distancing and masks are required on Church property and in worship (children under 5 are not required to wear masks). If you forget your mask, the Church will provide you with one.
  - A one-directional system for entering and exiting the facility will be in place.
  - The restrooms located in the Sunday School wing will be available for use, limiting occupancy to two at a time.
  - Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the Church.
  - Entrance doors and exit doors will be propped open at the appropriate times.
  - A sanitizing cleaning will be done prior to each service.

**What to expect when you arrive**

- Entrance for worship services will be through the upper parking lot entrance only.
- Signage will be placed to remind people of social distancing and general hygiene.
- You will be greeted by an usher to make sure masks are being worn and worn correctly.
- An usher will record and file your attendance for contact tracing purposes.

**What to expect in our worship services**

- There will be designated seating areas for individuals, for two people sitting together, and for three or more. (A chart will be shared via email prior to the first service.)
- Ushers will encourage congregants to fill in the designated seating areas working from the front of the Sanctuary to the back and filling the pews as they go to prevent physical contact.
- Once you are seated, we ask that you remain in your seat until the service concludes-
- Hymnals, bibles, friendship pads, church literature, and writing instruments will have been temporarily removed.
- The Passing of the Peace will also be temporarily suspended.
- Congregants are asked not to sing but are encouraged to hum along with the hymns.
- Ushers will dismiss the congregants by sections, exiting beginning from the back pews forward.

**Additional notes:**

- Weekly pre-registration for attendance is a **MUST**. Should you need to cancel, please contact the church office.
- Sunday School will continue online only following the current schedule.
- Nursery care will not be available.
- Please print your bulletins at home and bring them with you.
- A box to collect the morning offering will be placed outside the sanctuary doors.
- The Sacrament of Communion will continue to be held on the first Sunday of the month with the elements being pre-packaged.
- Covenant staff, including maintenance and custodial staff, have worked to determine and employ the best and safest practices for disinfecting the spaces used throughout the facility, and will remain diligent in cleaning and disinfecting all indoor spaces.
- Services will continue to be live-streamed via Facebook and recorded on Covenant's Youtube channel.
- Other restricted uses of the church building for indoor gatherings remain in force until further action is considered by the Reopening Task Force Sub-group for discussion and approval by the Session.