



June 24, 2020

Grace and peace, Union Church!

If you are not already aware, the date for the resumption of worship in the sanctuary will be July 12. In preparation for this, the Worship and Arts Team has come up with a set of Guidelines following the recommendations given to us by the Presbytery and Association. Council Session unanimously approved the following set of Guidelines in order to worship together safely:

1. Virtual worship will continue for those who are unable to attend, or who are uncomfortable with attending in person.
2. Reservations are required. We will have a capacity of 25 worshipers in the sanctuary with physical distancing. We will also accept 10 overflow people to be seated in the narthex. RSVPs should be made by Friday at noon for the upcoming Sunday. Please call or email the Church office to make a reservation. Reservations will be time and date recorded and will be on a first come basis. Due to limited inside seating, the service can also be heard by speakers outside, or the pre-recorded service can be viewed virtually from home.
3. We are asking people who feel the least bit ill, or who feel they will be unable to comply with these guidelines, to continue to worship virtually.
4. Volunteers will take and record temperatures as worshipers arrive. Anyone with a temperature of under 100.4 will be asked to move directly into the sanctuary and be seated to prevent congregating in the Narthex.
5. A log of attendees will be kept for contact tracing.
6. Face coverings are **required** to be worn.
7. The worship service will have the same abbreviated format as the virtual service and will be no more than **30 minutes** in length.
8. The Air Conditioning will be turned off prior to worship to eliminate the recirculating of air during the service. Doors will be left open.
9. Pews will be marked to maintain physical distancing. Those living in the same household can sit together as long as they leave six feet of distance between their group and other worshippers.
10. Regular pew cushions have been removed; however, a personal cushion may be brought and taken home each week.
11. Bibles, Friendship pads, prayer cards, offering envelopes and pencils have been removed from the pews.
12. There will be no paper bulletins or "In the Life of the Church." The service will be projected as usual on the screens. "In the Life of the Church" will continue to be emailed or mailed as it has been since March.

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ

13. All common touch items, such as sign up clipboards, in the Narthex have been removed.
14. There will be no singing during the service.
15. No sacraments will be offered for the time being during in-person worship. However, you may still receive Communion the first Sunday of each month by watching our virtual service.
16. Offering plates will not be passed; a large bowl has been placed at the end of main aisle for you to drop your offering into. Online giving encouraged.
17. Everything will be cleaned/sanitized before and after each weekly use. Hand sanitizer, wipes, etc. will be readily available.
18. We will be asking for volunteers to help monitor the restrooms for cleanliness purposes.
19. There will be no Fellowship Time before or after the service. **Please maintain social distancing at all times.**
20. Worshipers will be asked to leave the building immediately following the service and visit with friends from a safe distance **outside**.
21. No Nursery, Children's Message, or Sunday School will be offered for the time being.
22. No Valet service will be offered for the time being.

Are these ideal? Certainly not, but this is the reality and we recognize this. As we have said repeatedly, all of this—particularly worship—is a work in progress, and I'm proud of our church leadership for their hard work these last few months under very trying circumstances. Our goal was to move forward carefully, erring on the side of safety, so that people might both **be** safe and **feel** safe—knowing that things will be different for a while. Please be reminded that while it is not what anyone wants, re-closure is a possibility depending on the current trend of the virus.

So, we are asking that everyone will be gracious and flexible as we move forward **together**. While these guidelines may be an inconvenience, it is our hope that they are only temporary. I believe that as we seek to model Christ to one another in these difficult days, a small sacrifice is symbolic of what it means to love. The miracle could be that if we resume sanctuary worship in a spirit of cooperation and mutual forbearance, **we all win**. That is the power of love and what I strongly believe we are commanded by our Risen Lord to do.

Blessings,



Pastor Cherie, the Worship and Arts Team, and Council Session