

Reopening our Church Services

We hope to be reopening our church for worship in the building soon, probably the first Sunday in June, June 7, at 11:00 a.m. This date is what we plan, however, should something occur to prevent this, such as a stay-home order or a big outbreak of corona virus, we will need to change things.

We will have to take many precautions, in order to be as safe and healthy as possible. The rule we will follow is the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

First of all, please use your own best judgment. If you are ill, even slightly, please join us for worship on Facebook, rather than in the building. If you do not feel comfortable attending the service in the building, or if you are in a high-risk category for contracting the virus, the Facebook service is best for you. If you do not have Facebook capacities, let me know, and a copy of the sermon can be mailed to you. (As usual, the sermon is e-mailed to all members, anyway; so, if you know of someone without Facebook or e-mail, let me know.)

The service itself will last no more than 45 minutes. This is to decrease time of possible exposure, as well as decrease the need for people to use the church restrooms.

We will not be able to shake hands or hug or touch those persons who do not live in the same household with us. This could be difficult for us; we have all missed each other so much, and we are an affectionate bunch of folks! But we can do it, and this will not last forever.

We will all need to wear masks; this will protect everyone from any germs which can come through coughing, sneezing, and singing. Please bring your own masks, and even a scarf or bandanna will do. I myself will not wear a mask when in the pulpit and away from others, in order that I can be properly heard and understood. But in other parts of the service, especially singing, I will wear a mask.

For social distancing, we will need to sit in every other pew, on both sides of the aisle. A household may sit together, at the end of one pew. The next pew can be occupied at the other end. Should a household need an entire pew, we will be

seated accordingly, so as to keep 6 feet between people who do not live together. When the service is over, the congregation will be dismissed pew by pew, as is done at funerals and such occasions.

Our time for the children will be handled differently. The children will be asked to stand at their own seats in the pews when they are addressed, and the Noisy Offering will consist of a bucket placed at the back of the Sanctuary, rather than being personally gathered by the children.

The regular offering will be handled, very carefully, by ushers wearing gloves, and those sitting in the pews letting only the ushers pass the offering plates. Cash offerings, whether bills or coins or both, will need to be put into an envelope before placing in the offering plate.

Bulletins will be provided differently. Those persons with e-mail will receive a bulletin in this way, before Sunday morning. There will be one bulletin placed on each pew, and the words to prayers and hymns will be on the screens.

To begin with, we will still not be having Sunday School classes in person, nor will youth group be meeting in person.

We ask that everyone be patient with these new systems. No doubt adjustments will need to be made. We are in extraordinary circumstances, but with God's help, we will manage, and even come through them well!

May God bless you,

Pastor Sally