

Phase B - Worship and Connective Elements

The Re-Gathering Team is proposing the following protocols for in-person worship services at Unity Presbyterian Church.

1. Preparations Before Worship and other Life Rituals including weddings, and funerals.*
 - a. Need for 10 to 12 additional ushers for the service (1 acting as greeter outside, 1 working the desk, 3 checking people off the registration list, 4-5 seating people, 1 watching the offering baskets, several extras). Ushers should not be at-risk or under 18 years old. Volunteer ushers will be solicited, and training will be provided.
 - b. Hand sanitizer stations shall be set up in the Narthex.
 - c. The HVAC system will be turned on early and run throughout the worship service. In addition, the doors between the Sanctuary and Narthex will remain open to promote air flow.
 - d. A sign will be posted on the walkway reminding attendees of the COVID symptoms as they arrive and to not attend if they are exhibiting any symptoms.
 - e. Worship attendees should take their temperature at home and not come to church if they have any symptoms of fever (greater than 98.6 degrees F) without the use of fever-reducing medications. We do not recommend screening temperatures at church to avoid crowding and to help limit the amount of time attendees spend indoors.
2. Pre-Worship Service
 - a. Worship participants will be required to register on-line on the church website. Anyone without a computer or internet access can contact the church office to register. Registration will be limited to the first 125 participants due to physical distancing requirements.
 - b. Greeter (an usher) to be positioned outdoors in the courtyard reminding participants to wear their masks and space themselves out to maintain distance.
 - c. The bell in the historical sanctuary can still be rung. No additional risk.
 - d. Participants will be directed to enter the Sanctuary only via the main entrance into the Narthex. Signs will be posted on other doors directing people to only enter for worship through the main doors.
 - e. Ushers will be stationed outside (one at each door) with the list of registered attendees to document attendance.
 - f. There will be a very limited distribution of Sunday bulletins and announcements (hands free from a rack in the Narthex after hand sanitizing). The congregation is encouraged to print and bring their own Sunday bulletins or use their personal tablets or other devices in the Sanctuary (as Wi-Fi has been improved).
 - g. Ushers will escort participants to available seating. Ushers will seat individual/family groups at least 6 feet from others.
3. During Worship
 - a. The worship service will be shortened to approximately 45 minutes to limit exposure.
 - b. Masks must be worn throughout the service.
 - c. Unfortunately, there will be no singing by the congregation. Singing by a small choir group (maximum of 4 to start), or a soloist is allowed with adequate spacing. In addition, a small handbells group is permitted.
 - d. The Re-Gathering Team and Pastors will be reviewing the order of service and spoken congregational responses to help minimize potential transmission/exposure routes. There is a careful balance to be struck between safety and our Presbyterian theology.

- e. The sacrament of Baptism may be celebrated as part of in-person worship in the Sanctuary. Masks shall be worn, and social distance maintained except for the actual baptism (anointing with water, blessing).

4. Post-Worship Service

- a. Following the service, ushers will direct the congregation to exit. The congregation will exit beginning in the back of the sanctuary, working to the front, followed by the balcony.
- b. As the congregation leaves, they can deposit their tithes and offerings into 2 baskets set up in the Narthex (also available on the way into the service).
- c. As part of the communications plans, the congregation will be instructed to notify the church office promptly if they become ill with any COVID symptoms on the days following the service.

5. Several Days After Worship

- a. After the service, access to the Sanctuary will be limited. A dedicated cleaning team will clean pews and other high touch articles.

* Additional restrictions and protocols may be established with the family for funeral services.