

SPIRIT LAKE UMC BACK IN BUILDING PLAN

(revised 9/24)

Temporary Changes in Worship: Our Back to Church Plan

(We are monitoring case counts in our area and will adjust the plan as appropriate. There might be several times we go back to on-line and outdoor only services.)

- Masks are mandatory inside the building. For those who arrive without a face mask, we will be distributing face masks at the entrances. Masks are necessary to protect yourself and others and to demonstrate to your siblings in Christ that you care about protecting them too. Some have compromised immune systems but still want to be around other Christians for Sunday worship.
- We ask that everyone maintain appropriate social distancing from those who are outside of your immediate household. (6 feet is the recommended distance)
- Greeters will be at the busiest entrances to welcome you and to open the doors for you. In order to effectively social distance, you might be asked to wait outside the building for a moment if the narthex is crowded. Please be seated in the sanctuary immediately.
- We will make hand sanitizer available at entrances, in bathrooms, near doors, and at other strategic points throughout the building.

- Worship space seating will be limited and spaced apart to encourage social distancing from people outside of your household. (For larger families, pulling together additional seating is fine. Extra chairs and ushers will be nearby to help.)
- You will also notice pictures being taken of the congregation in case contact tracing is needed. This allows us to notify those members and guests who were in attendance if and only if a COVID case develops.
- You will be asked not to sing during most of worship, but rather enjoy the music and allow the lyrics to be sung over you. Humming is okay! Dancing, arm waving, snapping and clapping work too! In addition, congregational responses such as the Lord's Prayer will be spoken quietly or recited in our hearts. However, we will invite you to sing aloud the last song of worship and depart the sanctuary immediately afterwards.

- To maintain social distancing, you will see a reduced number of people leading worship. Vocalists from separate households must maintain a distance of 12 feet from each other and the congregation while singing. Musicians are required to wear masks and socially distance. The Choir

Director and Praise Team Leaders will consult with the Pastor about adding participants to worship leadership. A gradual return of the Praise Team is anticipated. The choir is mostly high-risk individuals and should not be practicing together at this time.

- We will have offering plates near the worship space entrances where tithes, offerings, and communications can be placed.
- On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Supper will continue to be distributed via prepackaged disposable Communion cup. These include a sealed wafer along with juice. We will share these at the close of worship to minimize risk.
- For the time being, there will be no refreshments and coffee available on Sunday mornings. To maintain social distancing, those wishing to visit before or after worship will be encouraged to do so outside or spread out in the lobby area.
- At the end of worship, ushers will help maintain social distancing by dismissing folks from worship starting with the back pews.
- Sunday School has resumed with masks and social distancing, when possible. Snack may be shared in Sunday School at the end of the morning.
- Wonderful Wednesday will return as well, but without a meal at this time.
- Groups may resume meeting in the building, but must record date and attendance for contact tracing. For church groups: No serving of food or drink at this time.

Notes for Funerals and Weddings:

In addition to the above, please note the following:

Our sanctuary capacity is now 80-90 people. Additional persons may be seated in the foyer and basement. On request, we also live stream to the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church Facebook page and broadcast to the parking lot at 88.1 f.m. ***Please do not remove tape from the restricted pews.***

Vocalists must be at least 12 feet from the congregation.

Households should be seated together.

Meals: Wesley can accommodate about 45 people under the current restrictions. Meals must be catered in and served brow bag or boxed style. The UMW are not available to serve meals at this time. We strongly recommend meals be limited to immediate family.

Gathering before worship: The Fireplace room is available for brief prayer gatherings before worship. Large gatherings for extended periods of time in that room are strongly discouraged.

Sanctuary doors should remain open during worship to provide maximum air circulation. Yes, that means you will need to be a little quieter in the foyer.

Finally, please note...

We are taking all recommended measures to make this a spirit-filled worship service for everyone. Our goal is to provide a safe worship space for all, so please allow us to serve in that way. For this season, we have removed several elements such as the greeting, Communion, and passing of the offering plates.

An inherent risk of exposure to Covid-19 exists in any public place where people are present. Covid-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the CDC, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

You should not attend in building gatherings if you answer "yes" to any of these questions:

Am I showing any flu-like symptoms?

Have I not been feeling well?

Have I been exposed to someone with symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Have I traveled internationally in the last two weeks?

Have I had a fever of 100.4 or higher in the past 14 days?

Is there any medical reason why I believe I should not be around others?

Do I or others in my household have a compromised immune system?