

ST. PETER GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Adopted by the Church Council on June 23, 2020

As we return to worship, we are doing so cautiously, with an eye towards keeping all worshippers safe. We hope you will view these guidelines with that understanding. We understand that following these guidelines will be less-than-satisfactory for some of us, but we pray that you will make the necessary adjustments for the sake of your fellow worshippers. We will continue to broadcast the "regular" 10:30 Service of the Word worship service on the radio and Facebook.

EXPECTATIONS OF ALL WORSHIPPERS

1. Worshippers will need to call Kathy in the church office to reserve worship space for the upcoming Sunday. **No one will be allowed into worship without a reservation.**
2. Facemasks must be worn by all worshippers except those under 5 years old. The church has masks for people who do not have one.
3. Social distancing of at least 6 feet shall be maintained, except for the members of one's own family.
4. Ushers will seat people in designated pews to ensure 6-foot distancing.
5. **Except in an emergency, everyone stays in their own pew at all times.**
6. Children must remain with parents at all times.
7. There will be no children's worship bags. Parents should bring their own play items for children. There will be no J-Walkers.
8. Only one bathroom (on the sanctuary level) will be open. If you use the bathroom, you will be expected to clean and disinfect it when you are finished. Cleaning supplies will be provided.
9. If a younger child (elementary aged or younger) needs to go to the restroom, a parent needs to accompany him/her to ensure proper cleaning.
10. The drinking fountains will be turned off.
11. At the end of the service, the ushers will dismiss worshippers by rows and worshippers should go directly to their cars.
12. Anyone who is sick, running a fever, experiencing coughing or runny nose, or any other symptoms, should **not** come to worship.
13. Anyone who is in one of the vulnerable population categories, please do not come to worship at this time. These categories include: over 65 years old, diabetic, lung, heart, or obesity issues, kidney or liver disease, and compromised immune system.
14. **If someone refuses to follow the guidelines, worship will be cancelled for that day.**

THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE: WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Everyone will enter through narthex doors.
2. Temperatures will be taken before entering the narthex. Anyone with a temperature over 100 will be asked to leave.
3. Worshippers will have an opportunity to pick up a mask (if needed), a bagged communion wafer, smarties, and raisins for non-communing children. Parents should pick the food items for children.

4. After entering the sanctuary, an usher will direct worshippers to the next open pew, starting from the front of the sanctuary.
 - + Family groups (1/pew) will be seated on the pulpit side, every other pew.
 - + Couples or singles will be seated (1 couple/single on the end of each pew) on the lectern side, every other pew.
5. There will be no bulletins or printed newsletters. Worshippers can print their own to bring or simply use the screens. Newsletters will be posted on the website and sent to those on the email list.
6. The service will last 30-45 minutes.
7. There will be no congregational singing.
8. There will be no spoken congregational responses. The Assisting Minister will read the congregation's parts. Worshippers can see the words on the screens.
9. There will be no sharing of the peace or passing of the offering plate. Offering plates will be placed at both entrances/exits to the sanctuary.
10. Everyone will be asked to fill out a form (in each pew) with names of their household and a contact phone number in case of COVID-19 exposure. The completed form should be left in the pew and they will be kept for at least a month for possible contact tracing.
11. At the end of the service, the ushers will dismiss worshippers by rows, with front rows going out the southeast doors and back rows leaving by the southwest doors.

RESERVING YOUR SPACE

1. Those who desire to attend worship should call the church office beginning Monday, June 29 to reserve a space in the sanctuary for July 5. Speak directly with Kathy. If a message is left, Kathy will call back to verify that a reservation has been made. Leaving a message does not guarantee a reservation.
2. Remember that the office is ONLY open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 to 3:30. Therefore no reservations will be taken after 3:30 on Thursday's.
3. Once someone has attended an in-person worship service, they will go to the bottom of the reservations list, to allow others to have the opportunity to attend.
4. "New" worshippers will have until end of business on Wednesdays to reserve a space for the upcoming Sunday. On Thursdays, anyone can call to make a reservation.
5. To simplify things for everyone, reservations will only be taken for the upcoming Sunday, not Sundays beyond that.

FOR THE FUTURE

1. We certainly hope these guidelines will be needed for a short time. As the public health situation improves, the Council will relax the guidelines and additional worship services will be added.
2. We do not know when we will be back to a "normal" worship schedule, but rest assured that this is what we all desire and the Council will move as quickly as seems advisable. As we know, this is an ever-evolving situation and we must be flexible so that the health and well-being of our members and our community is maintained.

Thank you!