

Guidelines for In-Person Worship – Updated December 21, 2020

Resuming In-Person Worship

We will resume in-person worship with the following Christmas services:

- **Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service, Thursday, December 24, 5 pm**
- **Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service, Thursday, December 24, 7 pm** (also streamed)
- **Christmas Day Communion Service, Friday, December 25, 10 am** (also streamed)
- To insure that as many people as possible can attend Christmas services, we respectfully request that you only sign up for one of the three services available. The 7 pm Christmas Eve service is one of our best-attended services every year, and available spots may fill quickly; please prayerfully consider attending one of the other services.

In-person Sunday worship services will resume on **Sunday, December 27 at 8:30 and 11 am**. Video of the 11:00 am service will continue to be livestreamed, then archived on YouTube.

Precautions

The following precautions will be in place for in-person worship from December 24 onward:

- Please exercise personal discernment when it comes to your health. If you are feeling sick, waiting for COVID-19 test results, in recommended quarantine or isolation from COVID-19 exposure, in a high-risk category, or not comfortable or ready to attend in person, please stay home. Services will continue to be livestreamed as noted above.
- You will be welcomed in person at the sanctuary door as you enter. All inner doors will be kept open.
- To minimize potential spread of COVID-19 in this public setting, wearing of face coverings (fabric masks) will be required at all services, from when you enter the building to when you leave. If you forget a face mask or don't have one, please don't let this keep you from attending; we will gladly provide you with one.
- To assure social distancing during worship, advance RSVPs will be required for all services. Sign-up options will be available by phone, email and Internet. 26 spots for families or individuals will be available in the nave of the sanctuary for each service.
- Worshipers will sit on the opposite ends of alternate pews. Designated seating will be clearly marked for "8:30 (1st service)" or "11:00 (2nd service)"; other pew entrances will be roped off to assure social distancing.
- After the *first* service of each two-service day, worshipers will leave through the side door of the narthex, using the classroom hallway and exiting the building through the exterior doors in the fellowship hall foyer.
- Following announcements, dismissal by families will begin from the back of the church. Please maintain social distancing and, weather permitting, wait until you are outdoors to greet others.

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The following general guidelines continue to apply to us at Messiah:

- Please wash your hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer stations are also available throughout the church building.
- Please avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, as well as unnecessarily touching surfaces, handrails and doors. Please cover your cough or sneeze (discarding soiled tissues at home).
- Please maintain minimum 6-foot social distancing and avoid people who are sick.

These practices will continue for worship services:

- The entire service will be printed in the bulletin. Congregants should take bulletins with them for reference, then recycle or discard them at home.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Offerings can be given electronically or taken at the door.
- When Holy Communion is offered, safe distribution protocols will continue:
 - The Pastor, Elder and Ushers will carry the elements to the pews; please stand as able when they approach your seat.
 - Please receive the Body of Christ in your open hand from the Elder.
 - Please take an individual cup from the tray held by the Pastor to receive the Blood of Christ.
 - Please return the empty cup to the container held by the Usher, then sit following your reception of the Sacrament.
- The Nursery remains closed.
- No food or coffee will be served after worship; the kitchen remains closed.
- Restrooms in the church foyer will be open for use. Water fountains will remain out of service.
- The sanctuary will be sanitized following Sunday services.

If you want to receive Holy Communion, but do not feel comfortable attending these services, please call (734-645-4353) or email (revjpeterson@yahoo.com) our vacancy pastor, Rev. Jason Peterson, to make arrangements to receive the Lord's Supper by individual weekday appointment, either at the church, at home, or another location that meets your needs.