

GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

Masks MUST be worn at all times.

SSUMC's Re-Entry Task Force has been charged with looking at ways to bring members of the SSUMC faith community back together in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have been able to successfully worship online virtually, there are additional challenges and considerations that must be addressed for our transition into Indoor In-Person Worship.

As we begin this transition, **we will have one indoor worship service in the main Sanctuary each week at 11:00 a.m.** We will also continue to **live stream as well at 9:00 a.m.** as we understand that some members of our church family may not yet be ready for in-person gathering.

After reviewing much information, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and work done by other churches that are holding indoor services, the Re-Entry Task Force determined that a tailored set of protocols was required. This document provides essential guidelines and practices necessary for our transition to an Indoor In-Person worship experience that is **SAFE, COMFORTABLE**, and meaningful for all participants. These requirements will remain in place until further notice. While these guidelines may appear to be overwhelming, please give them careful attention as they are intended to provide our members and community a SAFE place to worship.

MASK REQUIREMENT

- 1. Masks are required and MUST be properly worn when inside the church building, covering your nose and mouth, at all times for everyone above the age of 2 while on church property.**
2. Masks are available for those that need one or forget to bring one with them.

HEALTH PROCEDURES

While we would love to have you worship with us in-person, we invite you to watch the 9:00 a.m. online service, instead of attending the in-person service, if any of the following pertain to you:

1. You are an at-risk individual.
2. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness.
3. If any of the following situations apply to you, or someone you live with, within the last 10 days; experience flu like systems such as a fever, cough, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, congestion, runny nose or loss of taste or smell.

PHYSICAL SPACE

1. Please observe **physical distancing of 6 feet** from all that do not live in your home.
2. Physical distancing must be observed in the hallways and common spaces as gathering is not permitted.
3. Children 5th grade and younger need to be accompanied by an adult to ensure physical distancing.
4. Please respect people's desire not to shake hands or to be hugged and refrain from physical contact. Air hugs are great!!!
5. Please depart the building and socialize outdoors on the Portico (the covered outside area to the main entrance from the parking lot).
6. Doors will be propped open when possible.

SANITIZATION

1. Hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the building. We encourage all who enter the building to use them.
2. The building, including high contact surfaces and bathrooms, are professionally cleaned after use to ensure safety among all users.

WORSHIP

1. A Greeter will greet you as you arrive.
2. Paper bulletins will be distributed by the Greeter. **There will be a QR code on our bulletin to help us register your attendance. Please do so, as we would love to know that you're worshipping with us!**
3. Please select a pew that allows for 6 feet of social distancing between family units.
4. Please stay seated throughout the service.
5. The Pastor(s) and worship leaders will wear masks, and may remove their masks during the service behind the additional protective plexiglass shields
6. We are excited that our choir and praise band will provide music during the service.
7. In order to continue protecting one another, we will not be singing as a congregation at this time. Please enjoy the musical gifts of our choir and praise band and use it as a chance to reflect on the music and lyrics.
8. Instead of offering plates, there will be a drop box for offerings in the narthex. You may drop your offering in the box on your way into or out of the sanctuary.
9. During the offertory, we also invite you to make an offering online if you so choose, or to reflect on the spirituality of generosity as you listen to our offertory music.
10. After the postlude, our Ushers will be dismissing you from the Sanctuary in an orderly fashion to avoid traffic jams and maintain physical distancing. As you are dismissed, please move through the Narthex to the Portico where our Pastor(s) will

be waiting to greet you! (Please respect people's desire not to shake hands or to be hugged).

COMMUNION

1. We will celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month.
2. As you arrive, a Greeter or Usher will hand you a small, self-contained packet with a wafer and grape juice.
3. We will receive the sacrament in our pews rather than coming forward to the altar rail to kneel.
4. The Pastor will announce when to remove masks for communion. After communion, masks **MUST** be put back on.

RESTROOM USE

1. The restrooms are available and are to be used by one person (or family) at a time.
2. Please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before you depart the restroom.
3. Hand sanitizer is also available outside the restroom.

AMENITIES

1. The water fountains are **not** available at this time.
2. Sunday morning fellowship will **not** be offered at this time inside of the building (i.e., coffee, juice and refreshments).

FAMILY MINISTRIES

1. Nursery and childcare will **not** be provided at this time.
2. Our Growing in Faith (Sunday school) will **not** meet at this time.
3. The Christian Education rooms **need prior approval** before use.

Again, we are excited to welcome you back and we thank you for your cooperation following these guidelines to keep our church community safe and welcoming to all.