

Returning to In Person Worship

Communication to Congregation

After much prayer and discussion the church leadership team has decided to return to In-Person Worship on Sunday, August 23 at our normal time of 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Many of us have missed worshipping together and we feel we have a good plan in place to reopen safely.

It is imperative that LCUMC return with proper patience, understanding, and biblical conviction. We all desire safety as instructed by government leaders (Romans 13), and we desire to obey the command of Scripture to assemble and worship (Hebrews 10:25). We believe church is essential! Let's work together to make this happen for the glory of God.

We respect anyone's decision not to attend in-person worship if you would not feel comfortable or safe doing so. Certainly if you are not feeling well or consider yourself to be in the high-risk populations we ask that you continue to worship virtually.

All sanctuary surfaces will be disinfected prior to and after every worship gathering. The restrooms will not be available for use unless in the case of an emergency. Signs will be posted around our church and we ask members and guests to follow the directions when you return to church. No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any contact with known COVID-19 confirmed case in the last 14 days. Members are asked to wear a mask until further notice and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another. Masks have been sewn by Elizabeth Bowman and are available for those who have forgotten to bring one. No one will be permitted into the auditorium without a mask. Adults and children age 5 and older will need masks.

To simplify this process, the following practices shall be observed:

- ✓ DO
- ✓ Wear a mask (ages 5 and up)
- ✓ Stay six feet from others
- ✓ Cover your coughs or sneezes
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer which will be available

- ✗ DON'T
- ✗ Shake hands
- ✗ Hug others
- ✗ Come to church if you are sick
- ✗ Touch your face, nose, and mouth
- ✗ Leave trash in the Sanctuary

- Ushers will seat attenders before the services. Families will sit together. There will be 3–4 empty seats between families.

- We will sit every other row, and staggered in the rows in an alternate seating pattern to ensure social distancing. Distancing will be kept in all directions—front, back, left, and right.

- At the end of the services, ushers will dismiss attendees in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Ushers may need to direct people to a specific exit door. There will be no gatherings at doorways.
- Special music will be provided but there will be no congregational singing.
- Offering plates will not be passed during the services. Offering plates will be available in the vestibule for you to drop your offering, or you are encouraged to use online giving.
- Attenders are encouraged to promptly exit and refrain from fellowshiping at the end of the service.
- No coffee or food will be shared

Nurseries and Children's Classrooms

- The Children's Nursery will be closed. Younger children-ages 5 and under will sit in the former choir area up front with our Nursery Worker who will have appropriate quiet activities available.
- The church playground will be closed.

Please be in prayer about our plan to return to worship and carefully consider what the best decision for you and your family. We are a family of faith working together to fulfill our ministry during these difficult days.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mollie Reddic

Stephen Singleton, Lay Leader

Sandra Magee, Administrative Council Chair

John Mixson, Finance Chair

Lori Simpson, SPPRC Chair

Lynn Kelley, Trustee Chair