

Protocol for In-person Worship Outdoors

- In-person worship will begin with an outside service starting **July 26, 2020**. Additional in-person services will occur on **August 16th, August 30th**, and every other week thereafter as weather permits. **If inclement weather develops, the in-person service will not be moved into the church building but will be cancelled.** An internet service will be available. The protocol for cancelling outdoor services will be made available to the congregation as soon as possible.
- For those who choose not to attend an in-person worship service, a pre-recorded internet service will be provided on YouTube. Live Zoom worship will be held on other Sundays.
- Please do not attend in-person worship if you have a cold or are not feeling well.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of social distance and wear a face mask at all times. It is tempting to relax social distancing when talking to friends — please be vigilant.
- Please hold conversations outside, rather than inside, of the church building. This will reduce the buildup of aerosols in the building and the chance of aerosol spread of the virus. Conversation produces 10 times the aerosols of normal breathing.
- Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the church.
- The church will maintain a list of those attending a service in the event we need to help with “contact tracing”.
- For the service, please bring your own lawn chair from home and place it on marked areas on the lawn. The markings will assure a minimum of 6 foot spacing for social distancing. Ushers will provide chairs for those people that cannot carry a chair or who did not bring one.
- During the service, the congregation will not sing or respond in unison. Singing produces 60 times the aerosols as normal breathing; therefore, even singing outside is not recommended.
- Communion will be celebrated in place, at your seat. Sealed communion cups of grape juice and a wafer can be picked up from a table and taken to your seat prior to the start of the service.
- At the end of the service, the congregation will leave in a way that maintains 6 feet for social distancing. Masks should be worn until you are well clear of the church service area.
- At this time, we will not be hosting a coffee or social hour. Exposure risk to the virus increases the more time we spend together.
- If you need to enter the church to use the bathroom, please go directly to the bathroom. Do not use or enter the church office area or Fellowship Hall. One person at a time in the church bathrooms; please leave the ventilation fan on when you leave. The ventilation fan will remove the aerosols which otherwise could remain airborne a long time. Disinfectant sprays and paper towels will be available in the bathrooms, and hand sanitizers will be outside bathroom doors.

At this time the Reopening Committee feels that there are too many open questions associated with an in-person service inside the church building to recommend that option. We will continue to work to identify safe practices so that we might have an in-person service in the church building as soon as possible.