

## Trinity's Protocols for Returning to Worship

The Trinity UMC Protocol Planning Team (Jane Whitaker, Walter Hines, Matt Brookshire, Rick Chester and Pastor Kristie) present the following protocols to be activated as we gather for in-house worship. Target date for returning for worship is August 16, 2020.

1. Face masks must be worn at ALL times...before, during and after worship. This is required to comply with the Conference and CDC recommendations that face masks should be worn. The Pastor will wear a face mask at all times, except while leading worship if proper distance can be maintained. Persons unable to wear a face covering should continue to worship at home.
2. Social Distancing will be practiced at ALL times...before, during and after worship. The sanctuary will be roped off with signage to provide safe distances between families sitting together or individuals during worship. (Seating chart is available upon request). Organist will play a prelude then sit on the front pew, the pianist will play before the sermon and remain seated at the piano and then play postlude at the end of the service while congregation is exiting the building. Liturgist will be seated in the choir loft.
3. Ushers will be responsible for seating persons in permissible rows to ensure that social distancing measures are maintained. They will also dismiss the congregation by row to ensure social distancing. Ushers will be seated in the front pew with appropriate social distancing.
4. Bulletins will be placed in each available pew for those who will sit in those places. (Extras will be provided should they be needed).
5. Attendance will be taken by Ushers to make sure we have a list of attendees each week. The Attendance Sheet will contain the names of those who attend regularly with space provided to add visitors. This is to meet Conference guidelines that we must have on file a list of attendees should someone become infected with Covid-19, we can notify all attendees, the District office, and the local Health Department.
6. Custodian will make sure that the sanctuary and other church areas are sanitized and cleaned before and after each service to meet criteria for in-house gatherings per the recommendations from the Conference guidelines. Hand sanitizer will be available at each entrance and in each bathroom. Additionally, sanitizing wipes will be available in each bathroom.
7. Offering plates will be provided on the altar rail and in the Narthex for persons to give their tithes and offering for the week. These will be cleaned after each service. Members can also continue to give via mail, drop off box outside office, or online through the conference online method.
8. There will be no choir, congregational singing or congregational readings (affirmation, etc.) until it is safe to do so.
9. Counting Money. Our church secretary will continue to count the money each week for deposit, with the assistance of a volunteer each Monday.
10. Sacrament of Holy Communion...when we are able to serve Holy Communion, it will take place in the following manner:
  - \*The servers will wear masks and set the elements on the altar for each person to partake and step back from rail while person is partaking the elements.
  - \*Ushers will invite persons to come forward.
  - \*There will be two stations at the altar rail...with two communion cups; there will be an oyster cracker in one and grape juice in the other.
  - \*They will dispose of their cups in the receptacles provided and return to their seats by the outside aisles.
  - \*The servers will set-up for the next two persons, one from each side.
11. Counseling will be provided by appointment only. Benevolence will be handled on as needed basis via phone or drop in.
12. If a person is in a risk category, unable to wear a mask, feeling sick, or have a fever, they should remain at home and continue worshipping online. Online worship will continue to be available by Tuesday of each week.
13. If someone refuses to wear a face mask, there are two options available: (1) they can watch from home or (2) they will be escorted to the parlor where they will be able to hear the service.