



Guidelines for Resuming Campus Worship at St. Paul UMC June 2020

Greetings Beautiful St. Paul Family and Friends!

We give thanks to God for God's grace and mercy keeping us during this season of exile away from the Church campus. We are now preparing for our phased re-entry of Worship on our Church Campus on **Sunday, June 28th**. In order to communicate our expectations on how this re-entry will operate, our Worship Team and I have drafted these guidelines for re-entry. Please review them thoroughly and share with your family and friends. All of these recommendations come out of deeply prayerful reflection, advisement from our North Georgia Annual Conference, Bishop and medical experts, and with great compassion and love for the health, safety and wellness of our St. Paul congregation and our worshippers.

- **Music Ministry:**

- Our Bishop has confirmed that for the foreseeable future, **in person choir singing cannot and should not take place**. Instead, we will need to adjust and get creative by using the following ways of engaging in music:

1. Music videos as we have played during our off-campus journey
2. Music sung by soloist, duets, instrumentals and ensembles up to **four people that is pre-recorded**
3. **Instrumental music from our musicians**
4. With the advent of technology, we can keep our **choirs and other singers** engaged by recording music on Zoom, YouTube, etc. and then playing the recording video through our sound system.

- **Ushers, Congregational Greeting, Entering and Exiting, Nursery**

- No hugs or handshakes are recommended for safety's sake. If any physical contact is given, it needs to be torso/elbow bumps and/or waves.
- Ushers will need to arrive on campus at 9:00am.
- Sanctuary will be open by 9:30am, because worshippers will only be able to enter the sanctuary **one at a time**.
- This one at a time process goes for both entry and recessing from the sanctuary.

- o **Only 40 persons will be able to enter the sanctuary upon re-entry.**
- o At this time, we will not have the Nursery available upstairs. We do this out of an abundance of caution until we can ensure the health and wellness of our children in this new format. Parents who bring children will be responsible for them for the duration of the worship hour.
- **Finance Ministry:**
 - o Please see Finance Document attached.
- **Limits of the Church Campus Opening:**
 - o For the worshipping congregation, only the sanctuary and bathrooms outside it will be open. The rest of the campus is open only to ministry leaders who are needed for worship functions on Sundays.
- **Health for Members and Leaders:**
 - o I am asking all church members, especially leaders who will frequent the church campus on weekend, to begin taking additional immune support nutrients on weekends including the following items:
 - Vitamin C (supplement, oranges and apples)
 - Elderberry juice
 - Antioxidant rich foods: citrus, leafy greens, etc.
 - Regular drinking of water
 - o If you are a ministry leader and you feel sick or someone around you does, you need to contact Pastor King immediately, get tested for Covid19 and plan to self-quarantine. Medical experts advise that you check your temperature regularly; a fever is one of the symptoms of the virus.
- **New Technology and Pews:**
 - o You will notice several new elements of technology added in our sanctuary when you arrive on campus. We are very grateful for our Media Team's work to add new TV monitors, a new camera system and a soon-coming security system.
 - o In working to keep our sanctuary as free from the spread of potential germs as possible, you will also notice the removal of Church Contact Cards, hymnals and Bibles. All items needed for worship will be available on the screens.
- **Celebration of the Sacraments:**
 - o On first Sundays, we will continue our practice of inviting members in the sanctuary, in the parking lot and at home to bring their **own elements of bread and juice**. We will not celebrate Communion or corporate prayer at the altar.
 - o Pastor King will lead us through our regular liturgy before celebrating including the Consecration of the Elements. We will send out a copy of the

Communion directs before each first Sunday as we have for the past few months.

- o Pastor King will give direction on Baptism in the coming weeks.
- **Time of Service:**
 - o Our service format and flow will be consistent with worship during our off-campus season. We will still gather at 10:30am. Health Officials have encouraged churches to keep services as brief as possible. Our goal is that worship will last no longer than one hour.
- **Cleaning:**
 - o We will have Ushers and other members standing by at the bathrooms outside the sanctuary to ensure that the bathroom area has frequently touched items cleaned regularly during the worship hour.
 - o During the week, St. Paul leaders will clean the sanctuary during the latter part of the week.

Multiple Ways of Engaging Worshippers On Campus and Virtually:

- Beginning on Sunday, June 28th, we will have a new pattern for engaging worshippers on Sundays: **in sanctuary attendance, parking lot attendance (Praise in the Parking Lot), and online attendance:**
 1. Our **Sanctuary Attendance** will be limited to approximately 40 persons. Our Trustees have marked these seating placements with markers on the pews throughout the sanctuary. In person attendees will have to follow the following guidelines:
 - **Entering and exiting the sanctuary one at a time**
 - **Wearing a mask at all times during worship**
 - **Maintaining a healthy distance of six feet during worship**
 2. We will also have for the majority of our congregation who wishes to gather **“Praise in the Parking Lot”**, based on prayerful reflection and conference safety recommendations, here is the plan for Praise in the Parking Lot:
 - Members may come with their families to worship **via live stream on their phones or tablets** in our church parking lot. We have three lots available: one immediately next to our Christian education building, one next to our sanctuary, and one across the street between the two houses on hunter street.
 - Members who come to praise in the Parking Lot will need to follow the following guidelines:
 - Wear masks at all times while on church campus
 - Give one another at least 1-3 feet between cars

- Stay in your cars at all times during the worship experience
3. All other worshippers, particularly those who have immune system challenges, are vulnerable because of age (over 65) or other factors are invited to continue to worship from the comfort of their homes **via our live stream worship on June 28th**.
 4. On our First Sunday back (June 28th), we ask that persons (particularly those who are not church leaders who are serving) from these demographics participate in “Praise In the Parking Lot” or tune in via live stream:
 - **Members Over 65 years of age**
 - **Members with immune-compromised health or other health-related challenges**
 - **Infants up to 3-4 years of age**
 5. This will **only be on June 28th**. Afterward, we will invite more members from these demographics to worship in the sanctuary. We will ask everyone to use prayerful discretion in light of their own health. Our key focus is your health and wellness.
 6. Beginning on June 28th, our **online platform** usage for Sunday worship will shift: We will no longer be using Zoom on Sundays. Instead we will make use of our new YouTube Channel @SPUMC705 and Facebook Live @SPUMC705.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation with these guidelines. As we practice the fruit of patience and love together, the Lord will bring us into this new format of worship with exceeding joy and a harvest of new life in Christ Jesus!

Remember, since God is for you, nothing can stand against you! Here at St. Paul, we truly love caring for you!

Yours in Christ,
PK