

*"... faith without works is dead also." James 2:26*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer.

Earlier this month, the Session of the United Presbyterian Church voted to return to in-person indoor worship on Sunday mornings, beginning September 20.

We are committed to the health and safety of every worshiper. So, to reduce the possibility of transmitting COVID-19 during our indoor service, we have implemented the following measures.

1. Wearing a face mask is required from the moment you enter the building and throughout the service.
2. A registered nurse will take your temperature before entering the sanctuary.
3. Upon entering the sanctuary, an usher will seat you, starting at the front.
4. Pews are marked to denote where people should sit to ensure compliance with CDC guidelines for social distancing.
5. Singing is prohibited. There will be no passing of the peace, no live music, and no coffee hour. Any form of touching is discouraged, except among members of the same household.
6. When leaving, please file out starting from the rear of the church and leave the building immediately.

Despite our best efforts to keep worshipers safe during indoor services, we are acutely aware of the science that suggests the virus is particularly dangerous to those with underlying health conditions, including obesity. For that reason, I urge those with chronic illnesses or weakened immune systems not to attend our indoor gatherings.

However, for those managing chronic health conditions who want to attend in-person indoor services, please consult your healthcare professional about whether attending in-person service is right for you. If, after consulting your physician, you decide to join in-person indoor worship, please adhere to the following guidelines.

- Wear a face mask, a face shield, gloves, and a head covering that can be removed and discarded as soon as you leave service.
- Before entering your car or home after service, remove and sanitize your shoes, discard your gloves, and disposable face mask.
- When you get home, wash your clothing and reusable face mask.

The good news for those of you apprehensive about attending indoor service, you can still worship with us on our YouTube Livestream Sundays at noon.

I strongly urge anyone living with chronic illnesses not to attend an in-person indoor service.

Peace and blessings,

Allegra S. Hoots, M.Div.

Transitional Pastor