



# BUILDING REOPENING PLAN

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—HATTIESBURG, MS

## PHASE 1: BEGINNING ON DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY SESSION

### INDIVIDUAL SAFETY:

- Masks: Required
- Rooms Open: Sanctuary with spaced seating
- Handshakes: Discouraged
- Offering: Drop off in the Narthex, online giving, or mailed to the church
- Sick: Those with recent fever, symptoms, or known contact with a COVID-19 positive person must stay home.
- Cleaning: Intense cleaning of high touch areas

### CHURCH PROGRAMMING:

- People: 50 maximum (or current city guideline)
- Services: Sunday morning worship service only
- Sunday School: via Zoom if class chooses to meet
- Events: no other church events
- Online: continue livestream

### ATTENDANCE

Everyone is welcome. People will be required to wear a mask at all times and socially distance themselves. Persons who had a recent fever, symptoms, or known contact with a COVID-19 positive person must stay home.

The worship service will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook or at [www.westminster-hattiesburg.com](http://www.westminster-hattiesburg.com). Individuals that are immunocompromised or at high risk for contracting the virus are strongly encouraged to worship online.

There will be no nursery care available.

### ENTERING/EXITING THE CHURCH:

Entrance into/exit out of the church will be through the doors nearest the church office. These doors will be open as people enter and exit. All other entrances will remain locked. Signs will be displayed on these doors indicating that masks are required to enter the building. Temperatures will be checked before entering the building. Once the service starts, doors will be locked. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building. Masks will be available at both doors for anyone who needs one. Everyone is asked to refrain from going anywhere in the church except the sanctuary and restrooms.



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## BULLETINS

Bulletins will be emailed or mailed each week, like we are doing now for online worship. Bulletins will not be provided on Sunday mornings. Worshippers are encouraged to print and bring their bulletin or have available on their phones. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own Bibles.

## IN THE SANCTUARY

Bibles, hymnals, and friendship pads will be removed from the pews. Seating will be every other pew and opposite ends of the pew for social distancing. Appropriately distanced seats will be clearly indicated. Doors to the Sanctuary will be open during the service time. After the service is over, people will exit by pews from the back of the sanctuary forward, maintaining appropriate social distances at all times.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Per guidelines established from multiple sources, the adapted worship service will be shortened in length with the goal of lasting approximately 30 minutes. Entrance into the facility will be staggered as individuals move through a temperature check at the doors. People will move directly to the sanctuary to sit in pews that have been marked available.

Once the service begins, admittance to the facility will be restricted. At the conclusion of the service, people will be dismissed by rows. Sunday school and the children's moment will continue to be online only.

## LIKELY ORDER OF WORSHIP

- Prayer of Preparation
- Prelude
- Welcome and Call to Worship
- Anthem/Hymn
- Prayer for Illumination
- First Reading
- Second Reading
- Sermon
- Prayer of the People
- Anthem/Hymn
- Call for Offering (actual giving of offering will be in the Narthex)
- Charge and Blessing
- Postlude



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## OFFERING

The offering plates will remain in the narthex. Tithes & offerings may be placed in the narthex, mailed to the church office, or given online through the website or links given during the online service.

## CLEANING

After the service each Sunday, the sanctuary will remain closed until mid-week to allow possible virus to dissipate and then, it will be cleaned as usual, paying particular attention to high contact surfaces.

## CONTACT TRACING

We will keep a record of attendees each Sunday, in case someone becomes ill. We will be able to notify the health department of possible exposure. (An elder or deacon who is comfortable with attending the service will record attendance).

At this time, it is expected that a sizable portion of our congregation will continue to worship online. By marking only half of the pews on the floor of the sanctuary as available, seating capacity maxes out at 100 people. This number should far exceed the number of people who will choose to attend in person during a phase I reopening. In the event that it is necessary to maintain safe social distancing, some worshippers will be asked to share worship online in Montague Hall.

This plan will remain in place until the session determines that it is safe for we, as a congregation, to gather together more safely, using federal, state and local government guidelines, the CDC and the Mississippi Department of health recommendations, and the wisdom of our local medical community.