

COVID-19 TASK FORCE UPDATE – July 19, 2020

With no path for a return to normalcy until we have a vaccine, the following protocols will apply to St. Paul's until the start of Advent, November 29th.

SERVICES:

On June 14th we resumed worship with our 9:30 AM Outdoor Service; attendance has averaged between 50-70 per week and the requirements to wear a face covering and to keep 6 ft. of social distance has served to protect everyone. We invite you to join us; however, your personal safety is of the utmost importance. If you feel at risk then stay at home and watch the service on the St. Paul's website. We will continue to hold our service on the lawn into October and as long as weather permits. At that time we will move inside, keeping to one service at 9:30 AM, while complying with state and CDC guidelines.

Some have questioned why the service is held at 9:30 when 8:00 AM would be cooler and with less traffic. Nine-thirty was selected to take advantage of the sun's ability to kill germs. Come September we will appreciate the warmer temperature at 9:30. Whether it is hot or cool, outdoors or inside, 9:30AM provides a mid-morning opportunity to accommodate all worshippers.

We are also evaluating ways to share Holy Communion. Plans are to start Communion on August 2nd using one element, the Bread, distributed by the Ushers to prevent cross contamination. More information will be forthcoming.

Plans will be made with the Music Staff regarding choirs and instrumental music for our indoor Sunday services.

Decisions regarding Sunday School and Children's Time will be made in coordination with the leaders of those programs.

OPENING THE BUILDING FOR SERVICES, STAFF, COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS, SCHOOLS, SPACE RENTAL, ETC:

Staff will continue to work from home, and from the office as necessary to complete duties.

Receptions, dinners, ceremonies, social functions, funerals, weddings, etc. cannot be held in the building.

Committees of the church should hold their meetings at other locations, such as at private homes and outside when appropriate. The Task Force will meet with the various Committees to discuss plans for their programs and projects.

We are meeting with groups that are an integral part of our church family, including MusicInMotion and Scouting, to devise a way for them to meet at the church while maintaining the health of everyone involved including minimizing the potential spread of germs throughout the building.

We welcome your input, suggestions, concerns. Please feel free to contact any Task Force member: Pastor Burkhart, Suzanne Butler, Carla Hausmann, Russ Johnson, Peg Sennett (Chair).