

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH SERVICES

As we prepare to re-open for in-person Sunday Worship Services, our denomination and your Church Council have prepared Guidelines for those wishing to attend. These Guidelines are based on researched findings from the Centers for Disease Control, Johns Hopkins, and The UMC, as well as those established by the Governor of Indiana and may change depending on the state of the country, state, and county.

Social distancing requires individuals to stay a minimum of 6 feet apart. Please help to ensure there is adequate social distance between you and the next individual/household. Households may sit together. Maintaining social distancing includes no handshakes, hugs, or fist/elbow bumps. We understand these Guidelines may seem harsh and restrictive, but at interest is *your* health and safety.

Attendance

- + Individuals 65+ as well as those who are at high risk due to pre-existing health conditions (regardless of age) should exercise precaution when deciding to attend in-person Worship.
- + All people attending Worship Service are encouraged to bring and wear a face mask. If you are unwilling to wear one, there will be an area for unmasked seating (the far eastern portion of the sanctuary).
- + There will be some hand sanitizer available; you are encouraged to bring your own.
- + If you are not feeling well, take your temperature; if it's high (98.6+), please stay home.

Entering the Building

- + Enter through the main entrance; the doors will be held or propped open to minimize touching the door handles.
- + Upon entering, please move directly to the sanctuary to avoid congestion in the narthex and to maintain social distancing. Help discourage 'hanging around' in the narthex.
- + Please help to ensure in maintaining the 6 feet minimum distancing from others as has been recommended.
- + The library will be closed. Fellowship, coffee, tea, and water before Service as well as fellowship, drinks, and snacks after Service will not be offered. Feel free to bring your own beverage (with a tight fitting lid).

Sanctuary

- + There will be no bulletins printed. You may access the bulletin through your phone using our free wi-fi (www.knoxumc.org, choose "Weekly Bulletin") or print the bulletin at home from our website. The screens will be used so a bulletin isn't necessary to follow

along.

- + We will not be passing Offering plates; a basket will be placed at the entrance to the Sanctuary.
- + We will not be passing Attendance pads; pads will be placed in each pew row available for seating.
- + When choosing your pew, please help to maintain social distancing by leaving TWO pew rows between you and the next individual/household.

The Worship Service

- + In-person Worship Services will run shorter than they have in the past.
- + There will be no singing or responsive liturgies (such as the Call to Worship) as these activities enable any contaminant particles to be expelled from our mouths into the room (yes, even a room the size of our Sanctuary).
- + Please write out your Prayer Request at home; the Prayer Basket will be available at the sanctuary entrance for you to drop your request in. Microphones will not be passed during the Service.
- + We will not offer Children's StoryTime or Children's Sunday School until it is safe to resume (and to limit movement).

After the Service

- + To limit movement and maintain social distancing, we will dismiss congregants by pew, beginning at the back of the sanctuary.
- + After the Service, there will be no congregating. Please exit the building avoiding congestion in the narthex and maintaining social distancing.

Washrooms

- + Washrooms will be open, but only one person will be able to use the washroom at a time (except for same-gender immediate family) so that proper social distancing requirements can be met.

Water Fountains

- + The water fountain will not be available. Feel free to bring a water bottle for yourself.