

Dear Westminster Church Family –

The Session is pleased to announce that we will resume our in-person worship service this Sunday, June 21 at 11:00 a.m.

As we begin to gather again after these past 14 weeks, we move forward asking for the Lord's wisdom, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, considering guidance from federal and state authorities, and recommendations from the EPC.

There will probably be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There may well be times of frustration, disagreement, disappointment, and grief. We will have opportunities to exercise the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the areas of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

But there will also be blessings. There will be wonderful surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness.

Let us be faithful—to our Heavenly Father and to one another—as we work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world.

Following are some of the steps that have been taken to-date to prepare for your return:

- all surfaces in the building have been sanitized
- hands-free paper towel dispensers were installed in bathrooms
- new soap dispensers have been installed in the bathrooms
- a sanitary station has been set up by the north side double doors
- hand sanitizer is available throughout the building
- additional surgical masks are available if needed
- "RESERVED" signs have been attached to the top of every other pew so that seating will only be allowed in every other pew.

With regard to our worship service, we will modify the following elements of the service in order to limit our contact:

- Our greeting time right before our worship service will be eliminated.
- Instead of passing the plates for the offering we will have a box(es) available for your tithes and offerings
- We will not use the hand-held microphone during the prayer time. You will be able to share a request and then, if needed, I will repeat it so others will be able to hear your request.
- For the Blessing and Closing Song we will stay in our places, instead of gathering as a group.
- There will be no nursery and no fellowship time after worship.

Additionally, we have installed safety guidelines around the process of entering the church building. We recommend you arrive several minutes earlier than usual as these steps will slow down your entry into the sanctuary.

- Access to the building will only be through the north double doors facing the parking lot (between the sanctuary and the education building).
- Weather permitting, the doors will be blocked open and then one family unit at a time will be allowed to enter.
- People will be allowed in the building in 20-30 second intervals. The point of regulating the flow of people into the building is to help provide for social distancing at a time that is normally congested in the church building.
- As a result, there may well be a line at the door when you arrive. If there is a line of others when you arrive then please distance yourself by 6' from others. While in line please greet each other and look for a way to make someone smile.
- When it is your or your family's turn to enter the building **put on your mask** over your mouth and nose. Please bring your own mask. We will have extras if needed. Keep your mask on until the service begins. When the service begins then you will be allowed to remove your mask
- When you enter the building please proceed to the sanctuary and find a place to sit.
- The pews that have the "RESERVED" sign indicate that you are NOT to sit in that pew. So, find a pew for yourself and your family that does not have a reserved sign and sit towards one of the ends of the

pew. Feel free to talk with others before the service with your mask on and keeping your distance.

- If you need to use the elevator then we will have sanitizing wipes available so that the buttons and door handles can be wiped down after each person uses it.

When the worship service is done we will exit in the following way:

- With masks back on we will exit in an orderly fashion beginning with the back pew, one pew at a time.
- Please proceed out of the building.
- When those in the back pews are out of the sanctuary then the next pew will be dismissed. When people in those pews have exited then we will begin to dismiss the next pew and so on.
- When you are outside you can remove your mask and talk with others so long as you keep your distance.

A few more safety items to keep in mind:

- If you have a temperature above 100.5 or have any of the covid-19 symptoms or feel sick in any way then please STAY HOME.
- If you have come in contact with someone known to have covid-19 in the past two weeks then please STAY HOME.
- If you are over 65 years old and/or have other underlying conditions then we ask you to strongly consider staying home and join us for the online service.
- A cough or sneeze doesn't necessarily mean you have covid-19 but if you do need to cough or sneeze then use a tissue (available in every pew) or into your elbow. If the cough or sneeze is persistent then please excuse yourself from the sanctuary.
- With regard to masks, have the masks covering your mouth and nose as you move into and through the building, as you find a seat and up until the service begins. Then you can remove your mask. When the service has ended then have your mask on as exit the sanctuary and the building.
- One more note on masks, you do not need to have your mask on during the service EXCEPT for singing. There will be several times in the service that we sing. If you join us in singing, which we hope you

will, then please put your mask back on for the duration of the song. Another option could be that you hum along with the song so you wouldn't need to put on your mask.

A final note about the starting time of our worship service. For this weekend, June 21, and next weekend, June 28, we will begin the service at 11:00 a.m. Then, beginning on July 5th we will return to our 10:30 a.m. start time.

So, the next two Sundays we will begin worship at 11:00 a.m. and then in July (July 5th) we return to our normal 10:30 a.m. worship service.

That's a lot of details!

All that being said, we look forward to being back together again with you to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Holy Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

WELCOME BACK!

You are deeply loved

Your Session