



Christ Woodland United Methodist Church

444 North Hawkins Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44313-6197

Aug. 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to once again worshipping Our Lord within the loving environment of our church sanctuary on Rally Day, which is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13 – as long as Summit County remains at a Level 2 Emergency or less at that time. If not, we will continue to monitor events and the recommendations of our district leadership to determine a new date for resuming in-person worship.

As we resume worship by the congregation within the sanctuary, of necessity there will be some differences in the worship service and how we conduct ourselves to ensure we all are protected from potential exposure to COVID-19.

To this end, a special task force created by our Administrative Council for this purpose has recommended, and the Administrative Council has approved, that we adopt the following measures regarding in-person worship:

- If you don't feel well, or you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or you have any reason to be concerned about your health, **STAY HOME**. Instead, please attend the online worship service on Facebook, which will be continuing every Sunday.
- Those attending worship in person must follow at all times the protective practices recommended by health officials, including
 - Wearing face masks properly, even while talking to others
 - Practicing good hand hygiene and avoiding touching your face
 - Maintaining a social distance of at least six feet from others – this means no touching, including shaking hands or hugging, even while wearing masks.
- Enter the church through the doors nearest the parking lot. Do not enter through the kitchen or any other entrance. Signs will be in place to remind and direct you.
- To aid in maintaining the necessary social distance, please follow the directions on all signage; in particular, use the social-distance markings on the floor as you prepare to enter the sanctuary.
- No beverages or food will be available in the narthex before or after the service.
- Water fountains will be shut off. If you are concerned that you may need to drink something while in church, please bring it with you – and remember to take the container away with you when leaving.
- Rest rooms will be open. However, to maintain proper social distancing, only one person will be allowed in a rest room at a time. Signs will be placed on the doors to indicate whether a rest room is occupied; please use them and abide by them accordingly. This applies to both men's and women's rest rooms.

- The office, library, kitchen, classrooms and other parts of the church building will be closed off and unavailable. Only the designated entrance, narthex and sanctuary will be accessible on Sunday morning.
- Adult Sunday school classes may arrange ahead of time to meet in the narthex or outside. No children's Sunday school or other care will be provided. If you bring a child or children to church, activity packs will be available but be prepared to help children remain occupied during the service.
- As you enter the sanctuary, you may pick up a bulletin from the stack. To minimize personal contact, they will not be handed to you. You may use the online version of the bulletin on your smart phone or tablet if you wish. Also, we will continue to project the worship service on the screen at the front.
- Please allow the ushers to seat you. They will help ensure we maintain good social distancing in the pews.
- As you enter the sanctuary, please drop your tithes/offerings in the container provided. If you forget on your way in, you may do so on your way out at the end of the service.
- NOTE: When a hymn or other music is played, DO NOT sing along. Singing, even while wearing a mask, increases the risk of spreading the virus. Please listen and enjoy the voice of the worship leader singing from the chancel, when provided.
- Expect the service to last less than an hour. To help accomplish this, announcements will be made during the online broadcast before the service starts. Please refer to the bulletin or review the online broadcast for each week's announcements.

The times call for new practices in almost every aspect of our daily lives. By following these measures consistently and conscientiously, we can once again blessedly be together in worship, embracing the words of instruction given to God's people in the Epistle to the Hebrews that are so vital to the life and purpose of ours and every community of faith:

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10: 24 – 25 (NKJV)

May the Lord bless each of you and keep you now and always. Amen.

Sincerely,

Rev. Stephanie Lee
Pastor

Diane Salisbury, Chairperson
Facility Reopening Task Force

Facility Reopening Task Force

Martha Banks

Margaret McCans

Tom Morrison

David Newcomb

Diane Salisbury

Rev. Stephanie Lee