

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN COMING TO INDOOR, IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We will be welcoming members of our congregation back to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 15! We have missed being together in our worship space, and we have missed you! While we want to see you as soon as possible, we know that loving our neighbor means practicing the best in social distancing, and that some parishioners will elect to continue with online worship. In fact, Zoom worship at 9am will be our principal worship service throughout the pandemic. For those who are ready to worship in-person, however, we offer the following protocols.

Pre-registration. Everyone who attends in-person worship inside will need to pre-register by 9am Sunday morning. Pre-registration is necessary as seating is limited to ensure proper safety protocols and that there will be room available for all who wish to attend.

Pre-registration can be done by one of the following methods:

Online via the link in the weekly worship email.

SMLC website at www.stmatthewavon.org.

Call the church office at 860-673-3301 by Friday at noon.

Email the church office prior to Friday at noon at office@stmatthewavon.org.

Health Assessment. Please complete a personal health assessment at home before leaving for church. If you answer yes to **any** of the following questions, we ask that you stay home and attend church another Sunday to keep yourself and others safe.

Have you had close contact with a person with a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19?

In the past 72 hours, have you had any of the following?

Fever of 100.0° F or greater, OR

New cough OR new sore throat, OR

New diarrhea OR new nausea or vomiting, OR

New respiratory distress (shortness of breath or fast breathing), OR

New chills OR new repeated shaking with chills, OR

New muscle aches OR headache, OR

New loss of smell or taste?

If you have a positive diagnosis for Covid-19, contact the church office immediately.

Arrival. All parishioners will park using every other parking space. All parishioners (unless 3 yrs. of age or under) must wear a mask and put it on before leaving their car. Keep your coat and belongings with you, as coat closets will not be available.

Please enter by the north door, nearest the sanctuary. Lines marked along the sidewalk will assist with social distancing. Parishioners will be greeted by an usher outside the north church door who will check you in. Plan to arrive 15 minutes before the service begins to allow time for check in. Ushers will seat parishioners in the sanctuary.

Narthex/Entryway. Once inside the church doors, you will see hand sanitizer and reminders to keep at least 6 feet apart from other parishioners at all times. Face masks covering the mouth and nose are re-quired during the entirety of the worship service.

Seating. An usher will bring you to a seat in the sanctuary, spaced 9 feet from other parishioners. Bulletins, hymnals, and other high touch items in the sanctuary will be removed. We encourage parishioners to print a bulletin accessed in the weekly worship email or from the website and bring it along or use a smart phone to access the bulletin for use during worship.

Offering. An offering plate will be available on a table at the rear of the church. People may place their offerings there on their way into the sanctuary.

The Service. The worship service will be about 30 minutes long, either a Service of the Word with scripture, preaching and prayer, or a streamlined Service of Holy Communion. In addition, organ and other instrumental music will accompany our worship, along with singing by a cantor. Parishioners will stay at their seat until the end of the service. We will not be sharing congregational singing at this time.

Departing. Parishioners will be excused by an usher and exit from the north at the front of the sanctuary (the pulpit side) or by filing out the way they came in, maintaining at least six feet of distance between themselves. Parishioners will exit directly outside and may visit freely with others in the parking lot (with proper social distancing). There will be no coffee hour.

Restrooms. The restrooms near the office will be open but will be single occupancy. Please use the flip sign on the outside of the restroom door to indicate whether the restroom is occupied. The water fountain will not be available for use.

Other Areas of the Church. Areas beyond the sanctuary, narthex/entryway, and hallway leading to the bathroom will be closed. The church office will not be open on Sunday mornings.

Thank you! Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the changes and challenges of this time. The Holy Spirit is active among us as we practice these practical ways to love one another as Christ loved us.