



Returning to Worship Peace, Columbus

While the governor has stated that places of worship can open beginning May 4th, we will open when our community has entered phase one of the White House's plan to reopen America, which happens when the number of cases of COVID in the community has stabilized. Our community cases are still on the rise and have not yet stabilized. **Therefore, we will NOT be worshipping in the sanctuary on May 9-10 as hoped.** This will be a week by week decision as to the date when the sanctuary will open.

As returning to worship at Peace is considered, care is being taken for the health of all people. Some of the precautions may seem over-the-top to some, yet are necessary to keep everyone safe. Loving our neighbor at this time includes doing things that are uncomfortable to us in order to protect them from the virus while allowing them to be part of the congregation in worship.

It is recommended that those over 65 or with underlying health problems continue to stay home until the pandemic is over. However, if the need to worship is present, they are asked to attend the special Saturday 4pm service.

The possibility of having a drive-in service is being worked on. Equipment has been ordered to make this happen HOPEFULLY by the weekend of May 16-17.

Precautions

A Saturday, 4pm, service will be offered to the elderly and those with underlying health issues ONLY to provide a safe opportunity for them to worship.

The only doors that will be open are the two leading into the narthex – the south double doors and the handicap accessible doors to provide for proper screening.

Brief Health Screenings will be completed at the entrances for all attending services. This screening will be taking temperature, asking questions about symptoms, travel, exposure, etc. Anyone not passing the screening would not be allowed to enter the service.

Everyone will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands upon entering church.

Personal contact (shaking hands, hugging, etc.) is STRONGLY discouraged.

Doors that are used will be left opened if possible.

All attending will be required to wear masks at all times. Pastor, musicians, and readers are excluded for their parts of the service.

Social distancing will be maintained at all times. Every other pew will be closed off, with those used being marked with tape to indicate proper distances.

Bulletins will be spread out on table for people to pick up (if needed).

Hymnals, Bibles, and everything else will be removed from the pews

Offering will be taken at the door with the plates on stands

Children stay in seat during children's message. Kids Koins will be collected at the door and counted mechanically or AFTER the pandemic has resided.

Services will still be recorded for YouTube and CD/DVDs for those unable to attend.

Pastors will have masks on when greeting people before and after service. They will not be standing by the doors on the way out.

Households will be encouraged to register online or by calling the church office for what services they will be attending for the first week to make sure enough space is available since maximum attendance will be about 120 per service.

Cleaning will be done on all hard surfaces (pew backs and sides, tables in narthex, rest rooms, door handles/knobs, etc.) between every service.

The usher's tasks will be to assist households in finding seating in the sanctuary. Training will be provided to each usher team before the first service of the month.

Services

- Sat., 4pm – Open only to those over 65 and with underlying health problems
- Sat., 6pm
- Sun., 8am
- Sun., 10:30am
- Mon., 7pm or Sun., 6pm? If needed and desired.

Communion

Pastors will disinfect hands and wear masks and gloves when distributing the elements.

Pastor will distribute the bread CAREFULLY without touching the hand of the recipient. If he does, he will replace his gloves immediately.

Wine will be spread out on the tray for each individual to take their own cup without touching another cup. The pastor will not hand the cups to individuals.

The preparation and handling of the elements will be done after proper hand-washing, while wearing masks and gloves.

Six foot marks will be on the carpet for people/families to stand while coming up for communion.

These are the current plans for open up worship. However, as information changes, we will change our plans.