

GUIDELINES FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HURRICANE, WEST VIRGINIA

Four opportunities for in-person worship will be available each week:

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Adults only with encouragement to those who are 65+ and those with underlying health concerns. This service will be held in the Sanctuary. People will enter through the rear parking lot Welcome Center doors.

10:30 a.m. Service is open to all ages. This service will be held outside under the trees in the fenced in yard. Please bring your own chairs. If you are planning to come to that service but do not have a portable chair to bring please let us know and we will provide one for you.

Blankets are also welcome for those who can sit on the ground. Please enter the yard through the gates at either end of the yard. Please remember that the ground is uneven, so careful attention should be paid to those with walking challenges.

The service will be moved to the Fellowship Hall if the weather is not cooperative.

5:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. This service will be held in the Sanctuary. People are asked to enter through the rear parking lot Welcome Center doors only.

Wednesdays: 12:00 p.m. (noon) Adults only with encouragement to those who are 65+ and those with underlying health concerns. This service will be held in the Sanctuary. People are asked to enter through the rear parking lot Welcome Center doors only.

For Indoor worship opportunities the rear parking lot Welcome Center will be standing open (no touch entrance) as well as other doors for entry into spaces. Please refrain from all unnecessary touching of surfaces.

Making Reservations for Services

Since we are limited on how many people can participate in each service, we ask that you choose one of the 4 worship opportunities to be your choice and plan to come to that

service. Please call or email the church office with your choice. First come first serve. If we have reached the limit, we will ask you to make a second choice.

As things get better with the virus and we can have more than 25 people in an indoor space, we will adjust. But for the foreseeable future this will be our weekly plan.

General Guidelines for all four worship opportunities:

1. Masks must be worn. Please bring your own mask. We will have a few masks available for visitors. If you do not own a mask, please contact the church office so that we can get one made for you.
2. Social distancing (6 ft apart) is required. Worship area seating availability will be clearly designated. Ushers will assist inside and outside to make sure that appropriate distancing is kept.
3. Everyone will sanitize their hands upon entering the worship spaces (including outside).
4. Attendance is limited to 15 households or a total of 25 people for each service.
5. Programs for indoor services will be placed in seats prior to the service.
6. There will be no singing during worship.
7. Physical contact between people of different households is not permitted at any time including the Passing of the Peace.
8. Folks are asked to refrain from congregating in groups before or after the service.
9. A picture will be taken of each congregation/each service in order that contact tracing can be facilitated in the unhappy event that we have a COVID positive test by someone who has attended worship.
10. There will be an offering plate placed in a central location for attendees to place their offering – plates will not be passed around.

Directions for celebrating and administering/receiving the Holy Eucharist.

1. All four worship opportunities will be celebrations of Holy Eucharist.
2. The priest and one Lay Assistant/Reader will lead worship each time.
3. Both bread and wine will be consecrated BUT ONLY THE BREAD will be distributed.
4. The bread/wafer will be placed in small plastic cups with lids prior to the service by the priest only. The cups will not be touched by anyone other than the priest (no altar guild members will be involved in preparing the bread).
5. The priest will sanitize hands frequently during the service and especially right before The Great Thanksgiving.
6. Ushers will dismiss household units together to come to the altar area to receive their cup. People should return to their seats with lids remaining on the cups. Once all have received their bread, we will open the lids and receive our hosts together. The priest then will symbolically offer the cup to the congregation.

7. At the dismissal, the ushers will dismiss every household individually to maintain social distancing protocols.
8. Worship participants are asked to dispose of empty communion cups and lids as well as bulletins in the trash cans provided at the point of exit.
9. Once again, congregating between households is highly discouraged.

General Thoughts/suggestions/recommendations

1. If you are a high-risk person for whatever reason and are not yet comfortable with public worship wait until you are.
2. **DO NOT COME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP** if any of the following items apply to you or someone in your household:
 - a. A recent positive COVID-19 test (please alert the Rector if this happens)
 - b. Do not feel well
 - c. Fever
 - d. Cough or other respiratory distress
 - e. Have traveled outside of the state – especially to a COVID high risk area
3. Parents, as best you can, explain to children about ‘social distancing’ before you come to church. They are so used to giving hugs/high fives and receiving them it could be a hard transition. It is going to be difficult for many adults – your priest included!
4. Know that once we get our technology all sorted out and people trained, we will live stream the 9 am service each Sunday and it will be available on our YouTube channel.

General Information about the General Cleaning of the Building

Our sexton, Jim Dunaway is well aware of all of the CDC guidelines for cleaning since he is a school custodian at Conner Street Elementary. Jim has a full copy of the calendar of activities and will be certain areas are cleaned accordingly before and after each space is used.

Gabriel Project has developed their own guidelines for the safety of volunteers and clients and will maintain the Gabriel Room.

Our NA and AA groups have been advised of cleaning protocols and will assist in cleaning up after themselves. The NA group is meeting outside for the foreseeable future. Jim will of course do the deep cleaning after each use. These groups have also agreed to social distancing and mask wearing requirements.

Our scout groups are not using our building at this point. Boy Scouts gather outside at their building. Exercise group is using the fenced in yard or the parking lot depending on specific activity.