

## Reopening Guidelines for **Worshippers**

First Presbyterian Church — Conrad, MT

June 30, 2020

We are happy to finally begin worshipping together in person. For some time, we expect to continue to offer an online experience for worship; though, its format will likely change as we begin to gather in person. Details will continue to be posted on the website and on Facebook. So that we can protect one another as we're called to love our neighbor, we have a number of guidelines for and change to worship as we start back.

### **Deciding whether to come to worship**

1. If you are feeling ill with any suspected infection, have been around someone in the last 14 days who tested positive for COVID-19, or have been to an area in the last 14 days where the virus was common, please do not join us physically for worship. We'll look forward to having you join as you feel better.
2. We recommend all individuals who are high risk for COVID-19 complications not physically attend worship during this time.
  - a. The CDC has indicated any of the following suggest one is at high risk: those with an age 65 or greater, moderate or severe asthma, chronic lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other lung disease, diabetes (type I, type II, or gestational), serious heart conditions, chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis, severe obesity, living in a nursing home or long-term care facility, immunocompromised (including due to cancer treatment, HIV, bone marrow or organ transplantation, prolonged use of corticosteroids, and other causes), or liver disease.
3. If you are regularly in contact with people in the above categories we would, also, recommend you not physically attend worship for their benefit.

### **Guidelines for Worship**

1. Please wear a cloth mask for the duration of your time in the building. We will have some cloth masks available, but the quantity will be limited. Children under 2 are exempt from this request as the CDC recommends they not wear masks.
2. Please use restroom facilities before coming to worship as we do not have adequate bathroom facilities to socially distance and will not be sanitizing the bathrooms during worship.
3. Please keep 6 feet between you and members of households other than your own.
4. Please enter the building through the glass doors to the narthex (back of the sanctuary) or the side door if you intend to use the elevator.
5. Use hand sanitizer located in the narthex as you enter and exit worship.
6. After worship, please leave the building so that we can socially distance and allow all to leave as quickly as possible.

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7. To limit cleaning, please avoid all areas of the church except the sanctuary, narthex, and direct paths into and out of those room from outside.

### **Worship will look different for a time**

1. We will have a social distance pattern in the pews to maximize our distance from one another. Ushers will guide you to an open place, and we will fill the church from the front to the back. We'll have to sacrifice our regular seating spot for a time.
2. As we depart worship, pews will be dismissed individually from the back of the sanctuary forward.
3. Please drop your offering in the plates in the narthex as you arrive or as you leave.
4. In order to maximize safety and your touchless experience, we will be projecting contents of the bulletin and texts from hymns and scripture on a screen at the front of the sanctuary. Bulletins will be available to those who prefer. We will be removing hymnals, Bibles, and other paper from the pews to limit cleaning necessary after the service. You are welcome and invited to bring your own Bibles. Any translation is helpful; we will continue to read from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). If you do request a bulletin, please take it with you after the service.
5. You may sing quietly through your mask if you would like, or take that time to reflect on the hymn text silently.
6. We will not be providing child care nor will the "cry room" be available. We will also be removing the child activity bags from the narthex but invite you to bring appropriate activities or toys for your children. I'd invite all of us to be gracious to the challenge this offers parents and to expect a little more noise at times.
7. As much as possible, we will be leaving windows and doors open to the sanctuary to reduce risk of virus transfer. You may want to dress appropriately for temperatures outside.
8. We are now offering communion once a month but using pre-packaged elements that you can grab as you enter the Narthex.
9. When the weather permits, we hope to have coffee hour outside where it should be safer to socialize with social distancing.

Most of all, though, we're looking forward to having some of us gather in person and having others join online as fits their particular circumstances!