



Covenant United Methodist Church

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“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

WOW! Who thought this would ever go on as long as it has! Our last worship service together in the building was March 8th, 2020. Together, we have done amazing things to bring worship to you online. We have gathered for outdoor worship when weather has allowed us to do so and held a few special events for our families and children. And now, we are ready to carefully re-enter the sanctuary for worship. Your Resumption of Activities group has reviewed county and denominational guidance in detail and have developed a detailed plan for resuming worship in a way that maximizes safety and minimizes risk. We'll highlight some of those safety procedures briefly below. We do want to emphasize that we know that some of you are *not* ready to take this step for a variety of reasons and that we seek to support all of our families. We will continue to maintain online worship, our phone tree, prayer and study groups, and all of our other online activities to keep you connected to your church community.

I am happy to share some important details about our plans (highlighted below) so that you can decide if now is the time for you to return to the sanctuary for worship. The full indoor worship plan is available [HERE](#).

- Indoor gatherings weekly beginning November 1 at 10 am. We will have one service only for the time being
- Rapid response and reevaluation in case of potential exposure
- Limited attendance of 48 in sanctuary (including worship leaders) and 36 in fellowship hall overflow (which will begin with audio capability only)
- Pre-registration for attendance is required and will include COVID screening questions
- Mandatory masks for all (lecter and pastor will remove masks when speaking and will be 12' from congregation)
- Non-contact temperature checks at the door
- Social distancing from the car, to the seating in the sanctuary, to row-by-row dismissal and back to the car
- No fellowship hour; informal visiting outside in courtyard with masks and social distancing
- No singing; all music will be pre-recorded and played during the service

There is no doubt that, because of the safety precautions required, this will look and feel different. But we hope and pray that it will be a blessing to those who have been hungry for corporate worship.

We will be sending more details with links to pre-register and other information as each service approaches. Please talk with your family members and prayerfully consider whether you and your family are ready to gather for indoor worship in the sanctuary. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these plans, please contact Steve Augustino at sauggiedog@comcast.net or Pastor Dawn at dawn.stewart@covenant-umc.org.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Dawn