



Oct. 2020

Guiding Principles for In-Person Worship Services

The Reopening Team has been prayerfully working on a plan for SMC to begin in-person services and the reopening of the building. We believe our decision-making process should reflect Jesus' command to love one another and to consider others as more important than yourself. Therefore, we prioritize the safety of those most at risk. We also strongly believe that it is important for the church to gather regularly.

We recognize this area is constantly changing and requires flexibility in our plans. Therefore, we feel the need to state that our proposals and recommendations are open to revision as developments occur and as we are made aware of new information.

Reopening Phase 1

Indoor services - [We begin our return to indoor services on Sunday, Oct 4th at 9:30 am](#)

- Please bring your own Bible.
- We ask that you wear a mask the entire time that you are in the building, even after being seated. Remember that your mask should cover your nose, mouth, and chin.
- We ask that you maintain a proper distance (6ft) from those not in your household as much as possible. Our pews will be marked off to allow for enough space between rows.
- We recommend online giving of tithes and offerings but will make a basket available for those who bring offering envelopes or want to contribute with cash. The offering plates will not be passed around.
- We recommend using the bathroom before you come. However, the bathrooms in the main hallway across from the offices will be available for use.
- We ask that you refrain from congregating in other parts of the building outside the sanctuary. Once the service has ended, please feel free to fellowship outside.
- We will have seats placed in the main lobby for those not comfortable joining us in the sanctuary.
- We will not be serving food (coffee or snacks) in the fellowship area.

Sunday School

- We will not be having Sunday School or childcare through the month of October. This will be reevaluated as we progress.

Entrance and Exit

- The carport entrance will be the **only one unlocked** during this time. We apologize for the inconvenience. We are attempting to limit the amount of contact points in the building

Precautions Taken

- Wiping and disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces before arrival and 24 hours after use.
- Installation of UV filters in the HVAC system throughout the entire building.
- Compliance with mask use, social distancing guidelines, and occupancy limits.

Building Usage

- The church building is available for use. Scheduling can be made through Phil Detweiler, Facilities Manager.

Phase 2

As we progress through October, we will continue to evaluate conditions. Pending a review of the status of the pandemic in our area we will consider the following:

- Opening more entrances and exits for services
- Gradual return of childcare and Sunday School
- The removing of masks once seated in a socially distanced household group

If you are sick...

If you are not feeling well or are exhibiting any symptoms of illness, we ask that you stay home and watch the service online. There is a heightened awareness of cold symptoms during this time and so in addition to potential transmission risks, staying home is also a way to reduce distraction and communicate the level of care we have for others.

Thank you for your cooperation and help with these efforts to keep everyone at SMC safe and healthy. We look forward to worshipping together indoors soon!