



Maple Avenue Ministries : Plan for Indoor Worship Services Revised March 2021

Beginning Sunday, April 4, 2021, we will return to our sanctuary for in-person, indoor worship. Our hope is to gather in a way that is filled with hospitality and care so that we may worship God together, always together. We are also committed to stream the services online indefinitely. As the MAMily, we cling to the truth that we are together and that God is with us no matter our physical location.

Please read this summary of our guidelines for indoor worship that our Covid-response team, Consistory, church staff and pastors have put in place to ensure a hospitable, caring and safe environment for all who wish to participate in this way.

Guidelines for Indoor Worship

- **Worship Services:** We will hold *one* service in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. The service will be streamed on Facebook Live, and we are committed to stream services online indefinitely.
- **In-person Attendance Practice:** We will be implementing a registration system to sign up to attend in-person services. The sign up will go live on the church website at 12pm to register for the following Sunday. Please register for one "spot" per household. If there are over 6 people in a household, you may register for an additional "spot". If you are unable to register online, please call the church office for assistance. In this way, we are able to regulate the capacity of the sanctuary, and to faithfully fulfill our hope of being together, always together.
- **Masks:** As an act of hospitality and care for one another, masks will be required at all times when in the building and must cover both the mouth and nose.
- **Seating:** Ushers will help seat individuals/households from front-to-back on the ends of every other pew. Groups over 6 people may be seated in one full pew. Ushers will also dismiss the congregation from back-to-front after the service.
- **Building Use:** Apart from the use of the bathrooms, the narthex and the sanctuary, the rest of the church building will be unavailable for use. This also means that coffee fellowship and the nursery will remain closed at this time.

Protocols and Procedures

We are committed to gathering for worship in a way that reflects hospitality and care. Of course, none of these things are what we *want* to do, but because of this commitment to love one another, we are implementing a

number of protocols and procedures to help mitigate the risk of exposure to Covid-19. In addition to the guidelines mentioned above, please be aware of the following:

- If you have experienced any symptoms of Covid-19 over the past 72 hours (fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, etc.), if you have come into contact with anyone diagnosed with Covid-19 over the past 14 days, or if you are awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test yourself, we ask you to stay home and join us digitally.
- Please maintain social distancing, and sanitize your hands upon entering the building. There will be hand sanitizing stations in the narthex.
- The sanctuary, narthex and bathrooms (including all door handles, railings, knobs, pews and any other possibly-touched surface) will be thoroughly sanitized and cleaned during the week by our wonderful custodian.

Liturgy and the service

- Masks are required to be worn at all times while in the church building, including during the duration of the worship service- with the exception of the liturgist and preacher who may remove their mask only when at the podium (we have accommodated for extra social distancing from the podium for this exception).
- There will be no passing of the offering plate, but instead, we invite you to place your offering in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors, or to give online at www.mapleave.org/giving.
- On Communion Sundays, we plan to offer communion with prepackaged juice cups and prepackaged crackers that will be available for each person to pick up in the narthex before entering the sanctuary. For those joining virtually, we will offer a sign up for a visit from the elders/pastors to bring communion.

Other precautions

- Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pew racks.
- We have removed some furniture, coat hangers, and children's bags from the narthex. A few wooden chairs will remain for those who need to be in the narthex during the service.

Children's Bags

Unfortunately, our children's bags will not be available at this time. We encourage families and quarantine groups to bring their own supplies for children. We are also happy to supply crayons and coloring pages to be picked up at the church office during the week. Please email the church office if you'd like to arrange a pick-up, or stop by during office hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 9am-12:30pm).

Hospitality & Care Team

Each week we will need a number of people to serve with our Hospitality & Care Team. Ushers need to be 18 years of age or older and be willing to help ensure the safety, sanitization and care for the whole congregation and the church building during a particular service. If interested, please email the church office at 427MAM@gmail.com.