

Safety Precautions and Measures for Reopening Church

We will be opening our church for worship this Sunday, June 7 at 9:30am. Plan to arrive **no more than 15 minutes** before the service. If necessary, please use the handicap restroom beside the office. There are wipes and spray along with instructions posted for sanitizing when finished. **If you are not feeling well, we recommend that you stay home.**

For at least the month of June, council members will be performing the duties for our Sunday worship, aside from operating the elevator and sound system.

The following is a list of safety precautions and measures we put in place for the re-opening of our church.

1. Church will be cleaned thoroughly with disinfectant cleaning products after each service.
2. Members will enter through the **front door only** with masks on. **No entering through any other part of church during this time.**
3. A greeter will be there with a mask on and gloves. The greeter will lay a bulletin on a stand/table one at a time for each member.
4. Members will go up the steps to the right (Belleville side) and when exiting the service will go down the opposite set of stairs (Mechanic St. side).
5. Members should sit 6 feet apart from one another, unless you are family. Also, members should not sit directly behind or in front a person. They should keep an empty pew between each other. Pews have been taped off for seating safety.
6. The entire service will be in the bulletins, including the hymns, so there will be no need to touch the hymnals.
7. People may take masks off once they are seated, but can leave them on if they feel more comfortable. If you choose to sing, you must put on your mask. **Upon leaving, masks will need to be put back on, again.**
8. Offering plates on Communion Sundays will be put on the front pews, as we do at the Christmas Eve service. On non-communion Sunday's, one plate will be placed in the front pews for those persons using the elevator, the other will be set on the back pew where we exit.
9. The person running the elevator will be required to wear a mask and gloves.
10. For the time being, council members will be counting the offering. They can wear a mask/gloves if they choose; envelopes/money should be removed from the plates. The plates will remain and Kelly will see they are returned to the altar area.

11. Communion ~ Person(s) preparing communion will wear a mask and gloves. Bread will be cut and toothpicks placed in each piece. Tray is covered with plastic wrap. Two stands will be placed in front of the steps leading up to the altar area. One for the bread, the other for the wine. Cups will be pre-filled and placed in their trays (using multiple trays stacked on top of each other, if needed) making sure they are at least 3 holes away from each other and covered with the lid.

A council member will go up right before communion with gloves and mask on to remove the wrap from the bread and take lid off the cup tray. They will dismiss members by pew to come forward to commune. Tape marking 6 foot for distancing has been placed down the middle aisle. We ask that you please refrain from kneeling but you can stand and bow your head. For the time being, communion will be held at the close of the service. After receiving the bread and wine, you will exit the church using the staircase on the Mechanic Street side.

12. Until further notice, the use of altar flowers will be determined weekly. If the person(s) placing the flowers wish to keep them, then they will be ordered. Kelly will contact those members who have signed up, to see what they would like to do. If so, the person taking care of the flowers will also need to wear mask and gloves. The vase inserts will continue to be placed above the coat rack in the restroom area. The brass vases should not be cleaned with any kind of disinfectant.

13. If people are wearing coats, they will take them upstairs and lay it beside them in the pew.

14. Hand sanitizer can be found on the windowsills and throughout the church for people to use. Gloves are available in the narthex and choir room.

Pastor Ela will continue to work from home as much as possible during the week and is praying for you. Please call 740-338-7123 if you need to speak with her. Meetings and house calls can be arranged with safety precautions in place.

There will be no Sunday school, Social Hour or gatherings of any kind until further notice. These policies and procedures are subject to change as we work through this time together. These restrictions are in place for the safety of all. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Pastor Ela or any council member.

St. John's council would like to thank you for your cooperation and willingness to attend worship during these challenging times. We look forward to the day when we can come together again, without the need for restrictions and safety precautions. God has us in the palm of his hand and will see us through everything...keep the faith!