

Greenmount Church of the Brethren

Building Reopening and In-Person Worship Guidelines

The following is a comprehensive outline of the procedures proposed by the executive committee for returning to in-person worship activities. Our guiding principles for reopening are:

- To honor God and His Word (Psalm 138:2, I Timothy 1:17)
- To love our neighbor as ourselves (John 13:34, Galatians 5:14)
- To respect one another (Romans 12:10, I Peter 2:17)
- To stay humble and adjust the plan as necessary (Proverbs 16:9, Micah 6:8)

By attending in-person worship during this time, you are acknowledging that you have read and understood these procedures and you consent to abide by them. Please make thoughtful and safe decisions for yourself, your family, and our congregation and staff. We ask you to extend grace and patience to your brothers and sisters in Christ as we all work together to make our in-person worship experience possible.

Special Considerations to Consider Prior to Attending In-Person Worship

- We continue to encourage high-risk individuals (age, pre-existing conditions, etc. as per CDC guidance) to continue engaging in worship virtually.
- If you have been sick (with any symptoms, either COVID-related or not), if you have been exposed to someone who might have COVID-19, or if you have traveled out of the area, please wait 10 days without symptoms before joining us.

Continuing Services

- Sermon manuscript and bulletins will continue to be mailed and posted online as well as video of the sermon.
- The FM transmitter will still be used for those that would like to worship from their cars.
- Church members are encouraged to continue calling others to encourage them and check for any needs that should be addressed.

In-Person Services

- Sunday morning worship service will be held at 10:30 AM. (No children's church, or nursery).
- Sunday School, Bible Study, Kid's Club, and other gatherings can be held at the church building as long as mask and social distancing guidelines are followed.
- Sunday School will be held at 9:30 AM.
- Wednesday night Bible Study, Kid's Club, and Jr. High gatherings will be conducted via ZOOM. When a return date for meeting in person is set Bible Study and Kid's Club will be held at 7:00 PM
- Meetings of church related groups such as commissions and committees can meet inside the building as long as mask and social distancing guidelines are followed. The new and old basements are recommended to allow for the most spacing. If consensus cannot be reached in setting up meetings, hybrid gatherings should be considered to better facilitate all involved. If assistance is needed to setup ZOOM conferencing in full ZOOM or hybrid settings, please contact pastor Scott.
- Considerations for funerals, weddings, and other events will be made by Executive on a case by case basis.

- Target service length will be 45 minutes. Less time at the meeting house should minimize the use of bathrooms and decrease possible spread.
- If participation grows beyond the spacing considerations noted below, 2 services will be implemented.
 - ❖ Morning worship service will be divided into 2 services as needed to keep social distancing in place.
 - 9:00 AM- Preferential seating will be given to high-risk individuals at this service
 - 11:00 AM
 - The rows not used in the first service will be used in the second service; no seating will be reused for services.
 - Each service will have a separate microphone for song leader either in front of the organ or in the handbell choir loft.
 - In between services, common surfaces (i.e. handrails, doorknobs, pews, etc.) will be wiped down.

Special Considerations for Returning to In-Person Worship

Masks and Social Distancing:

- Attendees 5 and older are required to wear facemasks while in the church building. Outside of the building when social distancing can't be maintained facemasks should be worn. Masks must be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth at all times. (Parents should use their best judgement in putting face masks on children ages 2-4 while inside) Facemasks will be made available for those that need them.
- Social distancing between family groups should be a minimum of 3 feet from others. In morning worship services or other events that include group singing 6ft spacing between family groups will be maintained.

Entering the Building:

- The church building will open 15 minutes prior to the start of the service for entry.
- The main double doors will be opened for entry and exit by one designated usher. Doors will be closed during service. Ushers will wear facemasks and gloves.
- Ushers will be available in lobby to help with sanctuary seating.
- Ushers will be available in parking lot to direct entry, assist with those who need wheelchairs, and remind folks about facemask use.

Making your Way to the Sanctuary:

- Common areas (i.e. old and new entrance foyers, hallways, pulpit area, sanctuary aisleway) will not be available for socializing. Please plan to enter the building and proceed directly to the sanctuary to find your seat.
- Personal belongings (coats, purses, etc.) will remain with the congregant and the cloak room will be closed.

Sanctuary Seating:

- Families will be seated a minimum of 6ft apart on pews and will be seated at least every other row to keep distancing measures in place. Pews will be marked accordingly.
 - ❖ Skipping a pew allows for 6 ft of spacing. One (1) family unit (3+ people) per pew. Singles or couples can sit on either end. (3 ft. space on either end allows 6 ft. spacing.)

Worship Leaders:

- Song leader or Pastor will also fulfill the need for worship leader.

Singing:

- When congregational singing is done, congregants should remain seated and wear their mask.
- Music leader's microphone will be moved from the floor to on stage.

Children:

- If families need to take younger children out of the sanctuary, they can take them to any of the rooms with speakers (old nursery, new nursery, or conference room). Only one (1) family per room. If additional spaces are needed, the FM transmitter and radios may be used. A doorknob hanger will be used to indicate that the room has been used. The hangers will be red on one side (to indicate room was used) and green (to indicate room was not used) on the other.

Printed Materials and Signage:

- Required signage will be posted at exterior doors, sanctuary doors, and bathroom doors.
- Bulletins will be placed in pews to help mark appropriate seating areas on Thursday after printing and will not be handed out on Sunday morning.

Offerings:

- Offering buckets will be available outside the sanctuary. In the event of a special offering, multiple buckets will be available and will be marked accordingly.

Exiting:

- Starting at the back of the sanctuary, the ushers will release congregants row by row to help maintain distancing.

Special Cleaning and Care:

- Soap will be available in all bathrooms and kitchen
- Hand sanitizer will be available in main traffic areas
- Wheelchairs will be wiped down and ready each Sunday.
- Additional cleaning procedures will be continued to make sure week to week disinfecting is happening, especially common surfaces (i.e. handrails, doorknobs, pews, etc.).

Building Closure Triggers:

- If an attending person is diagnosed with COVID-19:
 - ❖ Close building for 2 weeks.
 - ❖ All congregants who were in attendance when the affected person was will be notified of possible exposure to a COVID-positive individual.

- ❖ The ushers will take attendance and contact information will be collected from all visitors.
- If we are not able to do the following, the building will be closed for 2 weeks or until a new plan can be developed:
 - ❖ Cleaning supplies inventory cannot be maintained
 - ❖ The reopening plan is not being adhered to
 - ❖ Inventory of personal protective equipment and supplies (i.e. facemasks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc.) cannot be maintained.