

GRACE UMC

Return to In-Person Worship Risks and Steps

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you” Matthew, 7:12

The Grace UMC “return to worship team” welcomes you to in-person worship and fellowship with your church family and our guests. In this time of the COVID-19 virus we ask everyone to join in steps to help keep our worshippers safe by knowing the risks and taking precautions. **We thank you for your help in minimizing virus risk to your church family.**

Risks:

- We can't be sure that every person who enters the church is free from the virus.
- We will take precautions to allow only people without virus symptoms to enter the building.
- We can't be sure that the virus does not come into the church building and some people can have the virus but not show any effects (but they can infect others)
- We are taking steps to minimize the risk to worshippers as best we can.

Steps to Minimize Risk:

- Only come into the church if you are feeling well.
- We need you to arrive early at least 30 minutes before the service starts.
- Every person attending church will be asked a few health questions before going into the church
- Everyone gets their temperature checked before being allowed into the building
 - -- It's touch free and takes only a few seconds.
- Follow the directions of the ushers on seating, exiting and more. **It's new and different.**
- Wear a mask at all times
- Don't use any shared materials
- Keep at least 6 feet away from others at all times
- We will only have 1 person in a bathroom at a time and disinfect touch surfaces after use.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Wash your hands often.



**Stay home
if you're sick.**

GRACE UMC

Return to In-Person Worship Plan

STEPS:

PREPARATION

IMPLEMENTATION

Phase 1:

June 28th

Phase 2:

TBD

Phase 3:

TBD

EVALUATION

Return Team

David Rotholz

Sam Floyd

Billie Thompson

Mark Merritt

Sam Jones

Rev. Rett Haselden

Michael Jennings

Clay Nelson



Preparation

- We have ensured cleaning supplies are adequately stocked and that the Sanctuary is ready.
- We have an initial supply of masks.
- We have purchased touch-free thermometers.
- Pews are taped off to designate the places people must sit in order to remain socially distanced.
- Entrances and exits will be designated and clearly marked with signs, both directional and informational.
- The Safety Team has been recruited to be present as ushers and greeters.
- The Trustees volunteered to help with physical set up.
- Volunteer Training took place on June 14th, 2020.
- Volunteer walk through will take place on June 21st. Photos demonstrating the process will be publicized.

Implementation & Instructions for Members

Phase I – beginning on June 28th

Pre- Sunday Morning

- Beginning Monday at noon and ending Friday at noon, the week before worship, you will need to call the church office to register for Sunday Worship, so that we can maximize attendance.
- You will provide your name, contact information, and the number of people from your household who will attend with you.
- You can leave a message Monday -Thursday evenings, but your reservation is only valid once you have received a confirmation phone call from the church.
- If we have reached maximum capacity for the week you will have the option of being on the wait-list for the current week, and to pre-register for the next week.

Implementation - Continued

Sunday Morning

- There will be one worship service, Sunday mornings at 8:30am in the Sanctuary with a maximum capacity of 33 congregants. It will be live streamed at 8:30am and rebroadcast at 11:00am for those who continue worshipping from home.
- Space will be reserved each week for guests of Grace.
- Arrive 30 minutes ahead of the start of worship (8:00am).
- Upon arriving at the church and exiting their car, congregants will be asked to maintain social distance in line as they are screened via a touch-free temperature check and short questionnaire. If they feel sick (cough, aches, shortness of breath, flu like symptoms, etc.), do not have their sense of taste and smell, have tested positive for COVID-19, been tested for COVID-19 but have not yet received results, or their temperature is above 100°F they will be asked to worship with us online from home.
- After being screened and admitted to worship, congregants will be signed in by name, address, phone number and email by a greeter. There will be no pew pads in the pews.
- Masks are required for all congregants. If they have not brought a mask one will be provided to them on entry, and they will be asked to use the provided hand sanitizer as they enter. All worship information will be displayed on the screens. No bulletins will be handed out.
- An usher will be stationed in the center aisle to direct the congregants to their socially distanced seat.
- Worship Leaders will wear masks while they are not speaking or singing. To be heard and to breathe safely while singing and speaking, leaders will need to remove their masks.
- There will be no in-person congregational singing. There will be no choir. There will be no hymnals in the pews. Lyrics will be projected for meditation and reflection. Worship leaders will sing to provide vocal leadership and encouragement to those worshipping from home.
- Children will remain in the pews for the Children's sermon.
- There will be no nursery volunteers. The nursery room will not be available.
- The Old Kitchen is designated for anyone who develops symptoms while at church. They will remain in this location until their ride can pick them up outside of the exterior door from the Old Kitchen.
- In the event someone develops symptoms while at church, everyone will be directed out of the building to return home and quarantine themselves until more information is known.
- Offering plates will not be passed. There will be offering plates at the doors where you may place your offering as you arrive or leave worship. You can also continue to give online, by text, or by mail.
- Those in attendance in-person will not participate in responsive or unison liturgy. Words will be projected on the screen for your meditation and for those worshipping online to be able to participate.
- There will be no pew Bibles in the pews. You may bring your own Bible or follow along with the scripture on the screen.
- Bathrooms will be available for emergencies, limited to one occupant at a time. Door handles, paper towel dispensers and sinks will be wiped down between uses by an usher.
- Congregants will be dismissed by section and row at the end of the service, and discouraged from loitering in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and covered walkway.
- The pastor will not greet parishioners at the doors as they enter or exit the building.
- In the event someone who has been to church tests positive for COVID-19 within two weeks following worship, all those who attended church with them will be notified using the sign in information obtained as they entered worship.

Limiting close contact with others will save lives.

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

To Prevent the Spread of COVID-19



- Do not overcrowd common spaces.
- Wear a mask to protect others.
- Keep at least 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid congregating in common areas.

Implementation - Continued

Week Days:

- The office will be open during the week, but staff will be available by appointment only. Masks and social distancing are strongly recommended during all appointments.
- In-person meetings, fellowship activities, ministries, and small groups will not take place in the church buildings.

Phase 2 - TBD

- Will be designed after a minimum evaluation period of one (1) month.

Phase 3 - TBD

- Return to full availability and access of in-person activities in the building without social distancing, masks, or other preventative measures in place.

Evaluation Questions

- Can the church keep up with cleaning supply usage and availability of needed materials?
- Is the workload required to keep used areas cleaned and sanitized manageable?
- What is the overall church and community health? Have the stated guidelines and procedures from CDC, DHEC and other agencies changed?
- Is there volunteer willingness and availability for needed roles and tasks?
- Is the congregation following church guidelines on Sundays and during the week? Do the guidelines need to be revised in light of the reality of implementation?

SYMPTOMS of COVID-19

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.



Fever



Cough



Shortness of Breath



Chills



Muscle Pain



Headache



Sore Throat



Loss of Taste or Smell

IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS,

STAY HOME!

For more information visit: dhec.sc.gov.

accelerateSC