

Phase 2 - Worship Service Protocol For Entering & Being Seated In The Sanctuary

As the congregants arrive, they may choose Line 1 or Line 2 to wait in front of the church for an usher to seat them. We will have markers on the sidewalk to keep the 6' distance necessary as the lines form.

Line 1 will begin at the door to the Bell Tower on the Park St. side of the Sanctuary. Households will leave a space of 6' between themselves as the line forms down the sidewalk on Park Street towards the parking lot across from the Youth House. This line will be seated on the right side of the sanctuary.

Line 2 will begin at the Main Entrance on S. Upper Broadway. Households will leave a space of 6' between themselves as the line forms down the sidewalk on S. Upper Broadway towards the parking lot by the St. James playground. This line will be seated on the left side of the sanctuary.

There will be a table at the beginning of each line that will contain hand sanitizer and face masks for those who do not have one. We are asking parishioners to bring their own face masks. Face masks will be required to enter the Sanctuary.

When the sanctuary is ready for seating, we will open both outer doors and inner doors to allow physical distancing between the ushers and parishioners entering the sanctuary, and to limit hands on the doors and knobs. We will leave the Courtyard doors locked with signs on the outside indicating that the doors are locked.

We will need one usher at the entrance of the Narthex door; one usher at the entrance of the Bell Tower door; one usher on the outside left aisle; one usher on the outside right aisle; and a VPOD to stand in the back of the sanctuary between the Bell Tower inner doors and the Narthex inner doors to help direct people to the ushers on the outer aisles and keep people from entering the center aisle. The usher at the door would send an individual or a family group inside at appropriate intervals to allow distance between them, and the parishioners will need to follow the direction of the usher & VPOD inside the sanctuary. We will seat everyone from the outside aisles and not from the center aisle. The usher will determine as the parishioners are walking forward how many will be sitting on a pew.

On a 12' pew we may seat one individual at each end; or two individuals at each end if they are together; or a family of three or more may be seated together on one 12' pew.

We will be closing every other pew to provide the proper physical distancing.

The ushers will seat parishioners starting with the front pews and working their way to the back pews. This will mitigate back and forth travel up and down the aisles during seating that may limit exposure to aerosols for the ushers as well as the congregation. I would save the chapel seats for last if necessary. If we use the projectors to display the service bulletin, these seats will not be able to see it.

Phase 2 – Protocol for Communion

Beginning with the front pews, the ushers will release a pew at a time to come forward for communion in one kind (bread only). The right side of the sanctuary will be served in front of the pulpit, and the left side of the sanctuary will be served in front of the lectern. We will need 6' interval markers on the floor on the outer aisles and in front of the lectern and pulpit for proper physical distancing. We will ask the parishioners receiving communion to leave their masks on while they receive the wafer into their hands. Then they can take the wafer in one hand, pull up their mask from the bottom with their other hand, put the wafer into their mouth and pull the mask back in place and return down the outer aisle to their pew.

Phase 2 – Protocol for Dismissal

Before they are dismissed, Congregants will be instructed to please go directly to their vehicles and not gather outside the church to allow safe distancing for everyone to exit. During the dismissal an usher or volunteer will open the back and front doors leading out to the Courtyard; both inner and outer doors of the Narthex; both inner and outer doors of the Bell Tower; and the door of the Memorial Chapel. Pews will be dismissed individually and directed toward the closest exit.

Phase 2 – Sanitizing

Between the services, the facilities staff will sanitize all surfaces with Vital Oxide in every area of the sanctuary, narthex, bell tower, sacristy, vesting room, choir room, restrooms, as well as doors and door knobs inside and outside.