



## Procedures for Indoor Worship

As we prepare to return to indoor worship at 9:00am on August 30, 2020 we ask that you read the following procedures and be prepared to follow these as you enter the worship space each Sunday throughout the pandemic timeframe. Please keep in mind that these procedures are meant to keep us all safe and to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19.

As set forth in the "Guide for Returning to Indoor Worship" Trinity United Methodist Church will offer indoor worship while Wood County is at an orange county status or lower. If the county moves to a red status we will offer worship outside or online. Regardless of where worship is offered we will continue to live stream our worship so that community members and congregants can connect with Christ via digital means.

### **Sanitizing and Masking**

The building will be sanitized regularly throughout the week, the high traffic areas (doorways, hallways, restrooms, stairwells, elevator, etc...) will be sanitized before and after worship as well. There will also be hand sanitizer available throughout the building for your use. All common use items (hymnals, Bibles, giving envelopes etc...) will be removed from the sanctuary. Ushers who will be distributing bulletins will be wearing gloves for your safety. Masks will be required within the building at all times.

### **Entering for Worship**

**Parking Lot Entrance:** As you enter the building at the parking lot entrance a greeter will meet you and open the door for you. We ask that you refrain from shaking hands or hugging as you enter the building. The greeter will guide you to utilize either the stairway or the elevator to reach the sanctuary level of the church. One family unit or one person at a time will be permitted to use the stairwell or elevator at a time. Once you reach the sanctuary, an usher will meet you and give you a bulletin and check you off of the attendance register. Then you may make your way to your seat.

**Summit Street Entrance:** As you enter the building at the Summit Street entrance an usher will meet you and give you a bulletin and check you off of the attendance register. Then you may make your way to your seat.

\*We ask that you plan to arrive early to church, at least 15-20 minutes early. Please note that as we enter the building there may be delays in entering. You are welcome to use both entrances as you are able to cut down on delays.

### **Seating During Worship**

We will have socially distant seating marked for you in the sanctuary with every other pew marked off. We ask that families sit together and that people who are unrelated and not living together sit at least 6 feet apart. If you need assistance finding a seat during worship, an usher will assist you.

## **During the Worship Service**

**Opening Prayer:** During the indoor worship service there will be no verbal congregational responses. Therefore the opening prayer will be shared by the liturgist on behalf of the congregation.

**Offering:** There will be stationary offering plates at either side of the altar platform for your convenience. As you enter the sanctuary and find your seat, you can place your offering in the offering plate.

**Hymns:** During the hymns the vocalists will sing. We ask that the congregation not sing during these times. Studies have shown that singing can spread the virus quickly and widely. We will add opportunities for embodied worship experiences such as clapping, dancing, snapping, etc...

**Junior Worship:** Junior Worship will take place during the worship service. We will dismiss children after the children's message to go upstairs to the junior worship room which has been redesigned to meet social distancing guidelines and safety protocols.

**Communion:** When we celebrate Communion we ask that you bring your own communion elements (bread and juice) with you to the worship service. This will allow you to have the safest communion experience possible. When Pastor Andrea consecrates the elements on the altar table the elements that you have brought will be included in the consecration.

**Baptisms:** Pastor Andrea is available to perform baptisms during any worship service for those who have not been previously baptized. She will wear a mask as social distancing will not be possible. But the sacrament of baptism does not need to wait for the end of a pandemic. If you would like to be baptized or would like to have your child baptized, please contact Pastor Andrea.

## **Exiting the Worship Space**

After the worship service ushers will dismiss each pew from the worship space so that we can socially distance as we exit the building. We ask that as you leave the building you exit quickly and do not stop to have conversation with other congregants. If you would like to have conversation please do so in the parking lot where there is more space and ventilation.

While these procedures may seem like quite a lot of changes please be assured that the Indoor Worship Task Force has taken great care in working to ensure that we return to the sanctuary in safe manner. We are hopeful that this return to our beloved place of worship will be fulfilling and will enable us to connect with God and with each in meaningful ways. May we continue to Spread the Word and Live the love of Jesus at Trinity as we move into this next phase of life in these pandemic times.

In the peace of Christ,

*Rev. Andrea Curry*