

August 2020

Following the CDC and local Guidelines, the following recommendations will be implemented for in person worship at St. John's UCC.

## **Recommendations:**

- If you are feeling sick, have recently been sick, or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and worship online with us or another way available to you.
- Please return to in person worship when you feel comfortable. This will be a personal choice based on your own health needs or those around you.
- Face masks will be required per current state of MN mandates. If you are unable to keep a mask on for the entire service, please adhere to social distances guidelines and respect those around you. There will be a supply of masks available.
- Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the church but please feel free to bring your own.
- Physical distancing (6 feet apart) must be practiced at all times. Signs will be posted as reminders.
- No singing. Singing produces a lot of aerosols making the spread of the virus easier.
- One family unit per pew. Every other pew will be available.
- Restrooms will be available. If you need to use the restroom, remember to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and use the hand sanitizer after touching the door handle.
- For safety reasons, the service will be condensed to about 30 -40 minutes.
- We ask that you try not to arrive more than ten minutes early to worship. There will be no fellowship/coffee time, and we want to limit the amount of time that we are in the sanctuary together. We know that the longer people wait around, the harder it is to maintain social distancing.

- When you enter the sanctuary, please sit front to back. The first to arrive will sit in the front and others will fill in from the front accordingly.
- A record of attendance will also be kept (For COVID-19 contact tracing purposes only. This record will be destroyed when no longer needed.)
- Bulletins will be available to pick up when you enter church.
- Offering plates will be set up at the exit of the sanctuary, and you can place your offering in the plate. Or the easiest and best method to give would be to give online!
- To limit contact, we will not be having a passing of the peace time during worship. We ask that you please refrain from hugging and shaking hands at all times while in the church.
- After worship please exit from the back of the church first and work forward. This is to make sure that the aisles don't get crowded and so that people do not have to pass by each other.
- As you leave worship, Pastor Lora will be maintaining a social distance to provide a greeting. Please respect everyone's safety and keep 6 feet of separation as you greet and go home.

While we are doing our best to offer a safe environment, congregants are attending voluntarily and the church cannot be responsible for any consequences of their attending.

In person worship recommendations will be changing based on the status of the pandemic and guideline changes from the MN Department of Health and the CDC.

Thank you for following these recommendations so that we can gather and worship together safely.