

## **OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

In response to the on-going concerns related to COVID-19 and the desire to resume in-person worship at Olivet United Methodist Church, the following guidelines have been adopted by the Church Council on August 6, 2020. All of the precautions below are directed toward keeping everyone safe and healthy.

### **Guiding Principles**

After a review of CDC Guidelines and information published by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church the following procedures will take effect during in-person worship at Olivet.

1. When leaving your vehicle:
  - a. Mentally prepare and ready yourself for social distancing.
  - b. Put on your mask and check in the vehicle's mirror to make sure your mask is properly secured.
  - c. Use hand sanitizer before exiting your vehicle and again after the service before you head home.
  - d. Observe social distancing recommendations even while exiting and entering your vehicle, making sure to give space to others as they are exiting or entering their vehicles.
2. All persons entering the church must wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose. You may wear a face covering of your choice or utilize one provided by the church.
3. Entrance into the church will be through the doors leading into the Garden Room. For those who cannot climb stairs, they should enter through the Office Entrance and take the elevator to the Garden Room. Entrance through all other doors is prohibited.
4. To limit the touching of door handles there will be someone stationed at each entrance to open the door to greet you.
5. Upon entering the Sanctuary your temperature will be taken and you are required to use a touchless hand sanitizer.
6. Seating
  - a. Ushers will direct you to available seating. Self-Seating is not an option.
  - b. Seating will be spaced so that social distancing is maintained between individuals who are not from the same household.
  - c. Seating will be available every third pew starting from the front. Pews not available for seating will be marked.
  - d. Unless you are from the same household you are required to maintain a social distance of approximately 6 feet apart. In our pews this would mean that someone can sit on each end of the pew and one in the middle. This means no more than 3 persons to a pew unless they are from the same household.
7. During the Worship Service
  - a. Paperless Service - No hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, offering envelopes, etc.

- b. No singing.
- c. No vocal recitation.
- d. Communion – Will be taken in the pew using pre-packed elements.
- e. Offerings will not be collected during the service, however, you may place your offering (cash or envelopes) in offering plates available in the Narthex.
- f. At the conclusion of the service Ushers will dismiss those attending by rows so that social distancing may be maintained

#### **8. Fellowship**

- a. No physical contact such as handshaking, touching, non-social distancing (stay 6 feet apart). This includes in the church parking lots and sidewalks as well as in the church building.
- b. The Fellowship Table is closed at this time. No coffee, beverages or food will be served either before or after the service.
- c. In-Person adult and children Sunday School classes is not permitted until further notice. We encourage online (ZOOM) classes which may be arranged through Pastor Lee.
- d. Childcare will not be available during Worship Services. Children may attend but must remain in the care of parents or guardians.
- e. There should be limited socialization before or after services. When doing so, maintain social distancing.
- f. Remember, you and others will likely be excited to be together again and that you will need to be intentional in order to observe safety actions.
- g. Remember to be patient and gracious with others.

#### **9. General**

- a. Restrooms – The only restrooms available are those located off of the Garden Room.
  - i. Paper towels will be available outside of each restroom entrance and should be utilized when touching door handles and bathroom fixtures.
  - ii. Please wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with lathered soap before leaving the restroom.
- b. The Sanctuary, Garden Room, Rest Rooms and touched surfaces (Door handles, railings, etc.) will be sanitized after each service.
- c. Sanitizing Stations will be available at both main entrances (Office building & Garden room)
- d. The number of persons allowed to attend an in-person service will depend upon the current PA Guidelines. Under the seating restrictions outlined above, our Sanctuary can seat a little over 60 individuals and more if there are groups from the same household.
- e. Water Fountains are closed.

**10. Assess Your Health**

- a. Stay home if you are showing possible signs or symptoms of illness (e.g. fever, coughing, etc.), have recently been sick, or if others you are staying with are, or were recently, showing signs or symptoms.**
- b. Stay home if you or others you are associated with may have recently been exposed to someone suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.**
- c. If you or others you are staying with start to show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after attending an in-person church service, consult a healthcare professional and notify the church leadership.**

**While we are all anxious to be together in Worship, we are striving to do so safely for all concerned. If you feel concerned about attending in-person services we encourage you to join us through our online streaming via Facebook and You Tube. If you want to utilize the new “Tablet Ministry” please contact Pastor Lee.**