

Guidelines to Reopening Church

Currently, Illinois is in Phase 3 but will be eligible for Phase 4 on June 26. Our goal with these guidelines is to allow a safe environment to resume our worship.

Basic Guidelines

- **Do not come to church if you are feeling ill - Fever, cough, headache, sore throat, loss of smell and taste.**
- Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer (gloves if you desire).

Safety in church

- Masks **All people** coming into the building must wear masks. We will have masks available at both doors when services start. (signs will be posted)
- Office The southeast door will be locked during the week. If you need to come in, call Sue (815-399-9296) or use your key. Sue will keep the office door locked. She will have the front window partially open so she can help with what you need, including copies. If you need to be in the office, she will step out.

Cleaning

- All doorknobs and handles will be wiped down after the church has been used. LeVon will do this as part of his cleaning. We will need to wipe down between our service and the service of Vida Eterna. We will have disinfectant spray and paper towels at both doors. The bathroom counters will be disinfected after a service, Bible study or small group. Spray bottles of disinfectant will be available in all bathrooms.

Worship

- Phase 4 recommendations suggest 50 people or 25% of building capacity. Our calculations project a maximum of 78 persons currently ... which is 25% of capacity. Since our survey suggests that some persons prefer to wait for a few weeks prior to attending church, we will be able to have one service the normal time of 10:15 am.
- Seating We will only use every other pew. There will be signs determining which rows may be used. Social distancing and the wearing of masks will still be required. Family groups may still sit together. There must be six feet between groups. Bulletins will be placed in the pews for use.
- Hymnals and Bibles These will be removed from the sanctuary to avoid contact. Both scripture and hymns will be on the screen or bring your own Bible.
- Singing and Praise Team Our praise team will be spread across the front of the sanctuary. They will not be required to wear masks while performing. They will be responsible for wiping down their own microphones. It is recommended that people in the congregation do not sing, even with masks. Words will still be posted for worshippers to follow.
- Nursery At this point we will not have nursery. The cry/quiet room is available for parents and young children. It will be wiped down after use.
- Offering The usher will take offering from the alternating empty rows. Only the usher will need to handle the offering plate. Communication cards may be placed in the offering as usual. The plates will be locked and allowed to sit for two days before reading them.
- Communion We will use disposable packages of juice and wafers. They will be in a bowl in the seats for use during communion.
- Dismissal after church The Central Conference has recommended dismissal to be row by row beginning in the front. We will adopt this procedure. Please do not linger in the foyer, rather go outside to visit. Social distancing must be maintained.
- Coffee time We are going to discontinue coffee and treat time for now.
- Dining room For the current time, we will not use the dining room regularly. Groups that do use it will wipe down the tables and countertops. We will not have Sunday School this summer and will determine fall plans later this summer.

These guidelines will be available to all. We have used recommendations from the CDC, WCHD, Covenant, and our insurer, Gallagher.