# **FAQ’s on Outside worship service:**

Please share this information with your class or small group so all may be aware and invited!

## **Outside worship service at Flower Mound UMC starting on Sunday, August 30th**

Each Sunday at 8:15, we will have a service on the lawn in front of the water tower. The purpose of the service is to provide an in person opportunity focused on community, connection and care of one another. Though we will have online services continuing at 9:30 and 11:00, this “in person” opportunity is a way for us to safely gather for the forseeable future!

## **What is the length of this worship service?**

The service begins at 8:15 and is planned as a 35-40 minute service focused on community, connection and care of one another. It will feature “revival” singing and sermons, in a campstyle type setting. The reason the service is this length is to allow for members to return home with time to participate in online zoom Sunday school classes by 9:30. The preacher for the 8:15 service may be different than the preacher for the 9:30 and 11:00 service, so that the preaching pastor may have “social distance” visitation or prayer / counsel with congregants after worship has concluded.

## **Will I need to make a reservation?**

No, the purpose of the outdoor service is to be much more flexible than inside services will require. We will not take attendance and simply focus on hospitality. As this service will be advertised open to the community, we also hope this approach will engage new guests into the life of the congregation.

## **Will I need to wear a mask?**

Yes. Masks are required on church property at all times. The purpose of masks is to protect one another from the spread of the virus. Though we know that outside ventilation offers a safer environment, we also want to do everything possible to care for our neighbor in the commandment of Christ, to love one another as ourselves. (Matthew 22:35-40). Love is the motivation of all we do as disciples of Jesus Christ, including our worship and fellowship with one another. Should you choose not to wear a mask, we ask you refrain from attending this service, as to not put our ushers or greeters in an awkward position. Each person will be reminded of the covenant we have with one another to care for each other through wearing of masks and social distancing procedures.

## **Will I need to bring my own chair?**

Yes. We ask you to bring your own lawnchair and we will mark on the lawn where to place chairs for appropriate social distance protocol. We ask you bring your own lawnchair to allow for the minimal amount of “touchpoints” possible as encouraged by CDC guidelines. We will have speakers and a sound system to allow for the service to be heard all over the lawn and onto the sidewalk. Should you choose to remain in your car, you are welcome to do so and roll down the windows, as the service should travel through our speakers. However, we will not be using a transmitter, as we are finding from other church’s experiences this is not a reliable method.

For persons who need physical assistance with their chair or are mobility challenged, we will have ushers and greeters available to help.

## **Is there a rain plan?**

If it is raining, we will not have an outdoor service. A determination will be made by that Sunday at 7:00 a.m. if inclement weather is prohibitive and postings will be sent out by 7:30 a.m. via email, facebook and text message.

## **How will I get a program/ order of worship?**

Though paper bulletins will not be provided due to CDC/UMC conference recommendations, we will have these options to get a bulletin which will include the lyrics to the words we will sing:

1. Our regularly scheduled Friday email will link to the worship service bulletin for you to print at home and bring with you.
2. A QR code will be available to scan at the service on site to view the worship service bulletin on your smart phone.
3. You can download the Bible app, and view the worship service on your smart phone with the ability to take notes through this app.

## **Will we celebrate sacraments?**

Yes! Our hunger and longing for communion has never been more than we are experiencing in this time, so we will begin the Wesleyan tradition of holy communion as often as possible, and offer this weekly. Prepackaged communion elements will be available in Ziploc bags at the entrance to the service and we will consecrate the elements in the service. We will also be offering the opportunity for baptism for those who wish to receive it as arranged with one of our pastors.

## **Can I join the church at this service?**

Yes! At our first service on August 30th, we will celebrate “Join the Church” Sunday. If you have been wanting or waiting to become a full member of the church, this is your opportunity! We will have this as an in person opportunity at the 8:15 service, and also an opportunity to join virtually at 9:30 and 11:00!

## **How can I make a financial donation at this worship service?**

Though an “offering” moment will not be included during the order of worship service itself, we will have a donation box for you to offer your financial donations before or after the 8:15 worship service.

## **How long will this worship opportunity be offered?**

We will continue to have this outside worship service as an alternative method of worship, particularly for those who may not be comfortable with inside worship. As the re-opening team continues to monitor the spread of the virus in the plans for inside worship based on current cases and spread, this service will continue as the need is deemed necessary. As the re-opening team determines when inside worship will resume, we will communicate the methods and means by which that will occur.