

## FAQ's on 11:00 inside worship service

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

### Inside worship service at Flower Mound UMC starting on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

The FMUMC re-opening team has determined the time is appropriate to resume inside worship services. This begins our phased approach of in person, inside opportunities. The first phase is 11:00 worship service. After that service has run successfully we will add the other services, small groups and meetings inside. We are remaining somewhat fluid on the timing of each because as the COVID 19 virus and changes develop daily, we want to be nimble in our response. Both the 9:30 and 11:00 service will have available online services and the 8:15 lawn service will provide an opportunity for those more comfortable with that venue.

### What will the service be like?

The 11:00 worship service will be similar in style and presentation to the services you are currently seeing online. There will be a few adjustments in order to limit the potential points of spreading the virus. For instance, we will only sing one song at the end of the service, and rely on a limited number of our choral scholars for the majority of the music, rather than a choir or congregational singing throughout. The passing of the peace will be creative and fun, while allowing all to maintain social distance etiquette rather than shaking hands across the pews. We will have a new sign language for "Eagles Wings" instead of holding hands. The worship leaders will remain on the chancel area rather than greeting in the audience, and children will be asked to stay in their seats during the children's time. You will be encouraged to make your offering online or when exiting or entering the sanctuary in our offering "boxes" at the doors. Social distancing will be practiced by staff and congregation with 6 foot spacing between seats, and the rows marked off accordingly. At the end of the service, ushers will formally dismiss row by row during a longer postlude.

### Will I need to wear a mask?

Yes. Per the Bishop of the North Texas Conference, masks are required at every United Methodist church during the COVID 19 pandemic. Masks will be required in worship until the Bishop of the NTC releases this requirement. The purpose of masks is to protect one another from the spread of the virus. Knowing that large indoor gatherings are one of the spaces where the COVID 19 virus can spread quickly, 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 asked to sign a covenant as part of the online registration process before attending worship, as a reminder of this responsibility.

### Will I need to make a reservation?

Yes. Because of the 6 foot distancing requirements, our sanctuary can seat 120 persons. Every Tuesday of the preceding week, a link will be sent out to the congregation. You will be asked to register for yourself and any family members attending with you. Family units will sit together. The link will monitor how many people sign up and deduct upon every entry. If you do not get to register for that week, we will place you on reservation for the following week as priority. You may do so by emailing [office@fmumc.org](mailto:office@fmumc.org) before noon on that Friday. This will ensure that if room runs out on week 1 for your reservation, you will be on the top of the list for week 2. Reservations will close on Friday at noon for the upcoming Sunday. On the registration link is a "Community Covenant for Return to Worship." This document is a statement of agreement to collective responsibility in following the guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus and release of the church from liability. You must agree to this covenant before your registration is complete.

Upon arrival the Sunday of which you are registered, your temperature will be taken outside of the narthex port-a-cache entrance. A nametag will be pre-printed and organized alphabetically by last name on tables in the narthex. This will allow us to remain true to the friendly "nametag" church we have always been! After picking up your nametag in the narthex, we invite you to be seated at the end of any pew that is not marked off. We will not have assigned seating.

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

Though paper bulletins will not be provided due to CDC/UMC conference recommendations, we will be utilizing the screens for the lyrics and responses during 11:00 worship. In addition, you can review the service ahead of time through our Friday email. The calendar for the week will go out on the Sunday afternoon email.

### Will we celebrate sacraments?

Yes! We will celebrate holy communion once a month on the first Sunday of every month. Individually packaged communion elements will be available upon picking up your nametag in the narthex on communion Sundays. The elements will be consecrated in service and we will take individual bread/ juice together while remaining in the pews.

Baptisms may be arranged ahead by calling the church office or emailing [office@fmumc.org](mailto:office@fmumc.org).

### Will the bathrooms be available?

The bathrooms near the sanctuary will be available for use. We will have antibacterial wipes in each stall and on the sink counter. Each person is asked to wipe down the lavatory area and sink area they have used to ensure the area is sanitized for the next person's use. We ask all children under the age of 10 be accompanied by an adult to the restroom.

Ushers will regulate to ensure only 1 person or 1 family is in the bathroom at a time.

### Will the nursery be available?

Currently our nursery will be unavailable. This is because children under the age of 5 will not be required to wear masks. As this requirement makes it difficult to ensure the safety of our nursery workers, we will be asking all children to sit with their families during the 11:00 worship service.

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

During the offertory, we will continue to invite you to make your financial donation online. If you prefer to donate using cash or check, we will have offertory boxes available in the narthex for you to securely deposit your offering.

### When can I enter the sanctuary?

We will be opening the narthex at 10:40 for people to enter and at 10:45, our organist will begin playing a beautiful prelude. We will have slides running on the screens through that time for your enjoyment.

### Can I invite a friend?

Yes! Friends are always invited! Especially during this time, our witness is vital as during this time many persons have rekindled a need for a relationship with God. Please send the registration link to them or register for them if you would like to sit together. They will have a nametag pre-printed upon arrival as part of their welcome!