

Modified Worship During COVID-19

Updated: 12/21/2020

After much discussion and prayer, the Session has decided to make a change in our worship services going forward. This virus and the government restrictions surrounding it have presented unique challenges for us as a church body, not the least of which is figuring out how to gather for worship in ways that nurture both our spiritual and physical bodies, and those of our neighbors. For the past six months we have held two morning worship services that have accommodated a range of different approaches to health precautions that exist within our membership, however we believe the worsening winter temperatures and elements are prohibitive to continue our outdoor worship gatherings. Therefore, **we have suspended the outdoor worship service, at least the winter months.**

For at least the winter months we will hold one morning worship service at **10:00 am**, but it will be available in two locations.

- Sanctuary. In the Sanctuary we will continue to follow the same guidelines we have been under since June, including requiring masks and marking off every other pew.
- Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is set up with a screen and a projector that will show the live feed of the worship service taking place simultaneously in the Sanctuary. We encourage all worshippers to wear masks, but we do not require it for the Fellowship Hall. We will provide air filters and ask folks to spread out in the Fellowship Hall as much as possible.

Both ends of the building have access to a set of bathrooms that will match the protocol of the worship space, and there is a divider in the hallway between the Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary to ensure that masks are worn in the Sanctuary. We do not make this change lightly and want to highlight that all of those who attend the less restrictive service in the Fellowship Hall are fully aware of the risks involved and assume that risk.

We continue to live stream both the morning and evening worship services so that all of our members and guests can continue to participate in the life of the church: <https://bit.ly/3edTQXq>

Winter Worship Schedule (Starting on Sunday, December 27)

10:00 am - Worship Service in the Sanctuary - masks required

10:00 am – Live Stream Service in the Fellowship Hall - masks encouraged

6:00 pm – Evening Worship Service in the Sanctuary, and streaming in the Fellowship Hall

*There will be no evening worship service on Dec 27 and Jan 3, services will resume on Jan 10

Please continue to pray for the peace and purity of our church during this season, as well as the spiritual and physical health of our members. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the elders and we'd be happy to speak with you.

Your Servants in Christ,
The Session of Covenant Reformed PCA

Ongoing Safety Practices Concerning Worship

Attending

- If you are at high-risk of severe illness from the virus, consider not attending for now. Those who are 65 and over, or who have a health condition that makes it dangerous to catch the virus are in the high-risk category.
- Do not attend if you are sick with symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with the virus within the last two weeks. If you have a condition that causes you to cough or sneeze frequently, or are even wondering if you might be coming down with something, please stay home until it clears up.

Parking

- Our new parking lot is available for parking. We recommend that you park with a space between your car and another.

Entering, Attending, and Exiting

- Limit your activity. Simply enter, be seated for the service, and exit at the conclusion.
- Don't gather indoors or use parts of the church that are marked off-limits.
- Maintain a 6-foot distance from others, both when arriving outside and within the building. Seating indoors will be in every other row and with appropriate distancing. Families and those dwelling together may be seated together.
- Restrooms are open to one person at a time, or one parent and child.
- There will be no nursery, fellowship, snacks, classes, or other activities or gatherings. However, a few rooms will be available if you need to step out of the service or take care of a child.
- Hand sanitizer is available at several locations.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be wiped down after each service.
- Offering plates will be available near the doors but for now it is preferred that giving continue online or by mail-in check.
- The bulletin contains the complete liturgy, so that no other items need to be touched or transferred to others.