

Suggested Protocol for In Person Gatherings in Church Buildings during COVID 19

April 2020

***This document is adapted from guidelines created by the Rev. Jason Thompson, West Pak UCC, OH
We are grateful to Jason and West Park leadership***

Matthew 7:12 – “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.”

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- Enter the building through front doors only. Additional entrances will be locked.
- Temperature checks at front door with infrared Thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home
- Close off every other pew in the sanctuary, including the balcony, to keep physical distance from anyone outside of ones household
- Observe one-way traffic into the Sanctuary. Enter through center aisle, leave via side aisle
- At the end of the service exit one row at a time
- The offering basket will be positioned at the entrance to the Sanctuary and will not be passed during worship
- Worship Bulletins will be positioned in an appropriate place to be picked up. ushers will not hand them out.
- No passing of the peace during worship
- If communion is served - elements are displayed on table and self served, picked up by each person
- Choir is suspended during summer months
- Cushions should be removed from pews. Pews should be sanitizes following each gathering.
- All should wear face masks. Masks will be available at the entryway to be picked up.
- Coffee hour can be held in open space, such as parking lot
- Anyone unwilling to comply to help keep everyone safe will receive a blessing and asked not to enter the building.

DURING THE WEEK:

- No large gatherings will be held in Fellowship Hall
- No Sunday School or Faith Formation hour will be held for children during summer. For younger children, packets of coloring pages of Bible lessons will be available for pickup and use during worship
- Small Groups - One or two specific locations in the building can be available for small groups to meet, other rooms are off limits.
- Small Group gatherings can be held in Fellowship Hall/or any specific location with attention to physical distancing and face masks.
- Each group must sanitize following their meeting
- Hand sanitizer will be permanently mounted on walls - Office, narthex, fellowship hall, etc...
- Consider no-touch soap dispensers
- Continue to live streaming worship
- Encourage people who are sick and immune-compromised to stay home and worship online