



## **CONCORD'S RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP: PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES**

### **A Message from Session**

*After more than fourteen months of worshipping at a distance, connected only electronically via the internet, our Concord family resumed in-person worship on Sunday, May 23. Some of us were no doubt more than ready to resume worshipping together in our sanctuary, and some of us, for a variety of reasons, are not yet ready or able to attend in person. Recognizing that the threat of the virus is still present, Session has worked to develop protocols and procedures that will provide the safest environment we can for all who gather in the sanctuary to worship.*

*We will continue to provide an opportunity to worship on-line using our livestreaming equipment. You can participate in the livestream at our new worship hour of 10:00am or view the recording later that day or at a future date.*

*These protocols and procedures will be updated as guidance from the CDC and the state are revised. We all look forward to the day when COVID protocols are no longer needed. We also encourage all in our Concord family to get vaccinated when you are eligible. Contact your medical provider if you are unsure about whether to do so.*

### **BASIC PRINCIPLES AND PROTOCOLS**

*If you have any symptoms, have received a positive COVID test in the last fourteen days, or have been in close contact with someone with COVID in the last fourteen days, you may not attend in-person worship. If in doubt, stay home.*

*We will keep track of those in attendance. Anyone not in the Concord directory will be required to provide contact information. This will facilitate contact tracing should we learn that anyone in attendance tested positive for the virus.*

*Masks, for all persons over the age of 2, must be worn at all times and should be worn when you arrive on church property. These must cover both nose and mouth at all times. We will have a limited supply of masks if you forget to bring one.*

*Family units must maintain three feet of separation from other family units.*

*No Sunday School or childcare will be provided at present. Children must remain in the pew with their families for the Children's Sermon.*

*Concord Connects fellowship time will not be held after worship. All socializing should be done outside before or after the service.*

*Access to the building for worshipers will be limited to the sanctuary and the narthex. Only the narthex bathroom will be available for use.*

#### **PROCEDURES**

*Entrance will be through the front sanctuary doors only. Doors will open at 9:40am. You will be greeted by a member of Session who will ask you to fill out a prayer card with your name so we can contact trace if necessary. You may add prayer requests as well, which will be shared with the pastor.*

*The building will be heated or cooled as needed.*

*Once you have entered the sanctuary, please use the hand sanitizer located there.*

*Communion:* On communion Sundays you will pick up a communion packet when you enter.

*Offering:* You will find a container in the rear of the sanctuary to receive offerings. These can be deposited before or after the service. We encourage you to continue to use online or mail-in options for making donations.

*Seating:* The front right section of the sanctuary is reserved for families with children so they can better view the Children's Sermon. Please socially distance (at least three feet) between family units. At the end of the service, please immediately move outside for socializing.

*Worship will be planned to last less than an hour. Participatory parts of the service (responsive or unison readings, as well as singing) must be done with masks on and speaking/singing softly. There will be no choir. Some pre-recorded elements (such as music) may be included in worship using the video screens and audio system.*

*Worship leaders and soloists will be at least 12 feet away from others.*

*In the case of emergency, all exits from the sanctuary may be used. Otherwise, do not use the doors at the front of the sanctuary to exit to other parts of the building.*