

# Young Memorial A.R. Presbyterian Church

## Opening Remarks from the Session:

We are excited to begin worshipping together again! It's been our prayer that God would bless us with some "normalcy" amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic, and we believe that this is a first step in that direction. We have sought to be guided by God's Word which calls us both to worship Him and to care for one another. To address the virulent realities of COVID-19, we have been mindful of the Proverbs (22:3, 27:12) which state that "The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." We also have considered the risks this coronavirus poses to others, especially those more susceptible to illness,<sup>1</sup> and how we best can demonstrate the love of Christ to them. On this point, Philippians, among other passages, has provided guidance: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus..." (2:3-5)

In order to humbly value others above ourselves, we feel strongly that we must have clear protocols in-place to protect our fellow worshipers and provide an environment in which all in attendance may worship safely. As we take the first step along the path God has provided, we ask that you carefully read the protocols listed below before returning to worship.

We understand that all may not be comfortable worshipping in person at the church yet. If so, we recommend that you continue to participate in worship via the live stream service at home.

We look forward to seeing you!

## Things to know before attending in-person worship:

### Important item to note:

- We are excited to worship together again! In order to worship safely, **we require that a mask or suitable face-covering be worn while in the building.** We have a very limited supply of masks so we ask that you bring your own face-covering. Suitable face-coverings include masks, scarves, handkerchiefs, and other cloth coverings that cover both the nose and mouth, and that fit snugly.

### General items:

- We will limit our corporate activities to Sunday morning worship at this time.
- Sunday School will continue meeting virtually until further notice.
- For the protection of others, we recommend that the following people continue participating in worship via the recorded or live-stream service:
  - Those who are or recently have been sick.
  - Those who have any symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.

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<sup>1</sup> "People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness," <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>.

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- Those who have compromised immune defense systems, particularly those persons over 65 years of age.
- Due to safety and logistics, we will not provide a nursery for childcare.
- Out of respect for others, we ask that worshippers not congregate together inside the building but gather outside using social distancing guidelines.
- For your protection, the facility has been cleaned by our janitor and will be cleaned after each service.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at multiple points around the sanctuary for your convenience. We strongly suggest that you bring your own sanitizer if you have it.
- To avoid multiple touches, we will not be passing the offering plates but will have a plate located at both entrances. We encourage on-line giving or mailing your offerings to the church.
- Bulletins and hearing assistive devices will be available as you enter the sanctuary.

### What to expect upon arrival:

- Restrooms will be open in the vestibule and just off the breezeway in the educational building; persons must observe social distancing when going to or returning from the restroom.
- We suggest worshippers arrive ten to fifteen (10 - 15) minutes early to allow for seating, which will be different due to social distancing guidelines.
- To reduce exposure, worshippers will ENTER the sanctuary via the breezeway doors and EXIT via the front doors; two-way traffic is to be avoided. Handicap worshippers should remain in place until the sanctuary is nearly empty then can exit via the breezeway doors.
- We will use every-other pew to seat worshippers.
- We will limit pews to five (5) people. Families may sit together but non-family members must practice social distancing and remain six (6) feet apart.
- The pulpit has been moved to the center of the platform to better accommodate social distancing.
- The pastor will remove his mask while speaking. This also will assist hearing impaired worshippers who rely upon lip-reading to grasp what is being said.
- Since singing produces more energized aerosolized droplets that travel much farther than when speaking, face-coverings should be used when singing.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will dismiss the congregation row-by-row, beginning from the back of the sanctuary. Please remain in your pew until dismissed.

The Psalmist declares (Ps. 95:6-7):

Come, let's worship and bow down! Let's kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep in His hands.

Again, we look forward to worshipping God together with you!