

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Dear Church,

With the latest CDC guidance in regards to relaxing mask and social distancing mandates, the Oakwood First UMC Board met on Tuesday 5/18 to update our safety guidelines that were put in place last June when we resumed in-person worship.

Thank you for your willingness to adhere to our safety guidelines this past year. Where we did have a few people contract the virus, I am pleased that they were not contracted at church and the majority of our congregation was able to remain healthy. I believe a good part of that was due to the precautionary steps we took.

As you will read, we will resume some things that we had paused, and we will continue to delay some other things until further notice.

Oakwood First United Methodist Church's In Person Worship Safety Guidelines are as follows.

1. Please stay home and participate in online worship if you are not feeling well in any manner but especially if you have:
 - fever
 - coughing
 - shortness of breath
 - sneezing
2. Wearing a mask will be optional.
3. We will continue to seat people in every other pew with 3 feet of social distancing between family units. Signage will remain to help designate where to sit.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available at each entry point to the sanctuary, fellowship hall and restrooms, in addition to each window sill in the sanctuary for easy access from the pews.

5. There will not be a formal collection of offering at this time, however there will be an offering plate at each of the entrances/exits for you to place your offering and tithes.

6. Sunday School resumed May 2, 2021 including a Children's Sunday School.

- Coffe service and prepackaged food are permissible for refreshments.

7. Building Usage other than Sunday Worship and Wednesday Choir Practice will resume starting September 2021 if community health data continues to be stable.

- Reservations can be made for that time frame by calling the Church Office.

8. We will continue to use Prepackaged elements for Holy Communion throughout June and July.

I am hopeful that as the year progresses so will our return of the things we have missed.

Please feel free to call me or any of the Board Members if you have any questions or concerns. Your 2021 Board Members are:

Jeff Glenn (Chair)

Joe Clark

Al Swope

Brandi Giroux

Cheryl Hughes

Sue Smallwood

Debbie Edwards

Cam Reed

Donna Meadows

Mary Alice Swope (Lay Leader) Tyler Reed (Lay Delegate to Annual Conference)