

## Outdoor, in-person worship To start Sunday, July 19, 2020

Calvary United Methodist Church will offer an outdoor worship service each Sunday morning on a temporary basis during the summer. This worship service will be an option for those who prefer to meet together in person. We hope to provide these outdoor services each Sunday morning at 8:30 AM beginning on July 19.

We will also continue to offer online/virtual worship each week on both YouTube and Facebook. These premier on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM and can be viewed at any time. We will continue to offer this option for as long as there is a need.

Principles and Values that have guided the church's plan for re-opening:

**Love for Neighbor** – We proceed cautiously and with social distancing measures to protect the safety and health of our community. We believe our plan helps protect our vulnerable neighbors.

**Service to Others** – We acknowledge that helping to keep our neighbors healthy is a part of our service to our community and how we can be the face of God's love.

**Connection and Relationship** – We value being in community together. We commit to continuing and expanding opportunities to worship, learn, and connect with one another.

**Transparency** – The Task Force has consulted scientifically-based documents, trusted public health officials, insurance providers, the Baltimore Washington Conference and other local faith groups to develop our plan. We also received comments and information from the congregation through a survey.

The Task Force for Safely Re-Entering will continue to provide guidance to the congregation and its leaders as the situation changes and it becomes safer to take additional steps to return to using the sanctuary.

The Task Force on Safely Re-entering

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## General Considerations

We ask that those persons who have symptoms of COVID -19 or been exposed to persons who have gotten sick in the last 14 days continue to participate in online worship and do not attend the outdoor services at this time.

Symptoms that may appear 2-14 days after exposure include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

**Older adults and those people with underlying health conditions, who are vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19, are strongly advised to participate in online worship rather than attend in-person worship at this time.**

All church members, staff and guests are advised to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Avoid handshaking, hugging and other types of greeting that involve physical contact
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid contact with sick people
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water
- Use of hand sanitizer
- Keeping 6 ft or more distance between you and others (apart from those with whom you live)
- Use a face mask at all times while in public.

## What to Expect For the Outdoor Worship Services

1. It will be offered each Sunday morning at 8:30 AM from the parking lot area behind the main church building.
2. In-person outdoor worship service will be limited to approximately 75 people. The number of participants will depend upon the number in each grouping while allowing sufficient spacing between groups. (The number may change as we go along).

3. We will need several volunteers to make this worship option available. This will include:
  - Greeters/Hosts at the entrances (garden and driveway) to greet people and provide assistance with the guidelines.
  - Ushers to help guests and members find where to sit
  - Volunteers to help with access to the restrooms.

We are requesting volunteers to contact the church by phone (301-662-1464)

By email at [office@cavalryumc.org](mailto:office@cavalryumc.org)

or by using the SignUp Genius by clicking here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4FAAA72FA75-outdoor>

This link will be provided on the church website and in weekly emails.

**Note: If we do not get sufficient volunteers, this will indicate that there is not enough interest to support an outdoor in-person worship option at this time.**

4. Reservations are required to participate in the in-person worship. Reservations will be on a first come basis. A separate reservation is required for each Sunday worship service. The task force will be watching reservations to see how much interest there is for the outdoor worship service and if more than one such service would be needed.
5. Reservations can be made between Monday morning at 8:00 AM and Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM each week. Reservations will need to include:
  - name
  - number in your group
  - contact information
6. Reservations can be made in two different ways:
  - a. Online reservation can be made using SignUpGenius:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4FAAA72FA75-outdoor1>
  - b. Telephone reservations can be made by calling the church office at 301-662-1464 and speaking with Cathy Baker or leaving a reservation request on the voice mail.
7. Once a reservation is made, you will receive confirmation letting you know that a space is reserved in your name.
8. A separate reservation will need to be made for each Sunday worship service. If there are more requests than space allows, we will consider adding an additional service.
9. The worship services will be approximately 40-45 minutes in length.
10. There will be no parking available on the church property.

11. Everyone who participates in the worship service will be expected to wear a face mask at all times while at the church. Mask provides protection for others and is a sign of our concern to care for our neighbor while in a pandemic. Disposable masks will be available should anyone need one. (Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2.)
12. Those who participate will be asked to enter the parking lot by either the garden gate facing onto West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street or the driveway from N. Bentz Street.
13. Hand sanitizing stations will be provided.
14. Folding chairs will be provided. These will be cleaned and disinfected prior to use. You are welcome to bring your own chair if you prefer.
15. The Education Center, Main Building and Baker Center will be closed with the exception of the two restrooms located on the main level near the library in the main building. This will minimize areas that would need to be cleaned and disinfected.
16. The restrooms in the main building will be available for use. We ask that only one person (or family) make use of the restroom at a time. The restrooms will be accessible through the door that faces the church driveway. (This entrance does have three stairs).
17. There will be no nursery or children's church available at the outdoor worship service at this time. Children are to remain with their family. The nursery will not be available.
18. There will be no choir or congregational singing, but music will be provided.
19. Offerings will be collected in secure receptacles near entrances and exits. (We will not be passing offering plates). We continue to encourage the use of electronic means for making your offering.
20. In event of rain, we will not hold the service.
21. Casual and comfortable dress is encouraged.
22. People are welcome to bring umbrellas, camp chairs and other items to make themselves more comfortable during the service.
23. There will be no donut or coffee provided. The usual fellowship and social time will not be possible at this time. We hope you can wave, smile and share greetings with one another in ways that can still keep everyone safe.