

Guidelines for In-person Worship

Calvary United Methodist Church

September 1, 2020

The Task Force on Re-Opening the church buildings has recommended that we begin in-person worship services in the sanctuary each Sunday morning starting on Sunday, September 6.

There will be one worship service offered at 9:00 AM each week.

We offer this worship option even though we recognize that we cannot fully eliminate the risk of infection to everyone who chooses to participate. Please carefully consider what you feel is best given your needs and particular circumstance.

General information

- Hand sanitizer is available in several locations in the narthex/lobby.
- The fellowship hall and other rooms in the main building will be closed for use on Sunday morning.
- The restrooms at the end of the hall on the main level are available however only one person or family group is to be in the restroom at the same time.
- The sanctuary and common areas will be cleaned and sanitized each week.
- There will be no nursery or children's church provided on Sunday morning. Children will be asked to remain with the families during the worship service.
- The current guidelines for the state of Maryland allows us to have up to 50% of the capacity that the fire marshal permits. This means we can have up to 184 persons in our sanctuary
- We will continue to offer on-line worship services for those who chose to participate in that way.

- Everyone who attends the service will need to have made a reservation at the church office or online by Friday evening at 8 PM. Reservations can be made by at SignUpGenius link posted each Tuesday by email and on the church website (www.calvaryumc.org) or by leaving a voicemail message at 301-662-1464.

Entering the building

- Mask are required for everyone who attends the service.
- The double wooden doors that face onto N. Bentz Street and the garden doors that face onto the garden area will be the only doors that are open for use.
- The church doors will open 15 minutes before the service is to begin. This means that the door will open at 8:45 AM.
- Everyone who attends will be asked to confirm that they are not sick, have not tested positive for the virus within the last 14 days, and have not been in the presence of anyone who has tested positive for the virus in the last 14 days.

Seating in the sanctuary

- When you arrive, please enter the sanctuary and have a seat. The narthex and hallways should be kept clear.
- Everyone is to enter the sanctuary by the center aisle and leave by the side aisles
- Everyone is to sit in family groups or individually. A basic rule of thumb: those people who have been living in the same house or rode in the same car to the church can sit together.
- No one is to sit in the pews that are roped off.

During the worship service

- Because the coronavirus is primarily spread through the air by droplets, we will not be singing hymns together during the worship. We also will limit speaking in unison. We will not be passing the peace by handshakes or hugs.

- Baskets will be provided near the doors where you can leave your offering before or after the worship service.

At the conclusion of the worship service

- Once service is completed, everyone is to leave the church at the direction of the pastor or ushers. Those in the back will be dismissed first and then others follow as directed until the sanctuary is cleared.
- There will not be a time for sharing with friends inside the building before or after the worship service. Everyone will be asked to move outside, and the doors will be closed.

Holy Communion

- We will be offering holy communion on the first Sunday of each month.
- Great care will be used to limit contact and see to the safety of everyone involved. This will be an optional part of the worship service.
- Specific instructions will be provided by one of the pastors each time Holy Communion is offered.