

Dear Church Family,

I understand these have been trying times for many, whether financially, physically, and mentally. Our church building has been shut down for almost 3 months now. It is now the time for us to open the building back up and resume gathering in the sanctuary on Sunday morning at 10:15am for worship. Our first service will be this Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. We will, however, open slowly, following all guidelines provided to us and resume our worship experience with the utmost caution – not out of fear but out of caution to everyone involved: staff, volunteers, and attenders alike.

Below you will find a set of guidelines that we would expect to see followed while attending the worship service. I want to express firmly that if you do not feel comfortable venturing out to come to worship by all means continue to stay home and watch the service via Livestream. We have those that are not ready to start coming to worship and those that have been “biting on the bit” to come back. Both are very okay. We all have our own personal health issues, our own different thoughts and opinions on the matter and our own separate lives we must live. There will be no judgement whatsoever against anyone due to the decision they make. We love you all and want you to be safe and also we want you to be able to worship. With that said, I can not say this next state loud enough or enough times:

THIS WILL NOT BE LIKE ANY WORSHIP SERVICE YOU HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED HERE AT CLINTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE AS PASTOR. MAYBE NOT EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

First and foremost, social distancing of 6 feet is mandatory and needs to be adhered to under no underlying circumstances. As we enter, as we sit, as we worship and as we exit – 6-foot distancing should be a high priority.

Second and foremost, we ask that you wear a mask as you enter the building, as you are being seated and as you exit the building. Once you are seated (each family unit 6 feet apart), if you feel comfortable removing your mask you may do so. If you feel you must get up during the service for any reason (we request that you do not) then we ask that you place your mask back on to do so. We ask that you bring your own mask. If you do not have your own mask, we have a limited supply that we can offer to you.

Third and foremost, the Fire Chief came in and did a measurement of our sanctuary for maximum occupancy purposes. Our max occupancy for the sanctuary is 250. The state guideline limits us (during this phase) to 25% of that number. Our max occupancy for phase one is 63. If we have more than 63 show up, we will make accommodations for the extra yet still abide to state guidelines.

The following is a list of guidelines we are requiring for worship. Please keep in mind these are in place for the health and safety of everyone involved.

This will be the Order of Worship for this Sunday:

Gathering Music

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Special Music

Scripture

Message

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Prayer

Doxology

Communion

Coral Benediction

Dismissal

1. ENTERING - We ask that as many as possible enter through the front double doors of the church building. We understand that under certain circumstances some of you enter by other doors. NO ONE IS TO ENTER THROUGH ANY OF THE BACK DOORS. As you enter the building, hand sanitizer will be available, and masks will be available if you are without one. There will be no bulletins handed out. Please, no gathering in the entry way, lobby, Holy Grounds room, or the back of the sanctuary. Social distancing must be adhered to as much as possible. We ask that as you enter the sanctuary a member of your family group pick up the number of communion kits your group needs from the table in back (one per person). Please sanitize your hand before communion kit are handled (sanitizer provided). Then there will be a person to seat you. We will be using every other pew and staggering people from side to side, starting in the front. THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY YOU WILL NOT GET YOUR REGULAR WORSHIP SEAT. Please adhere to these seating arrangements. After you are seated and are at 6-foot distancing from those around you, you may remove your mask.
2. CALL TO WORSHIP – Because speaking can send any germs further than regular breathing, we will not have a call and response Call to Worship. It will be something read by the Worship Leader to call us to worship.
3. PASTORAL PRAYER - There will be no writing instruments in the pews. If there is a prayer request that you would like to share with the church family please email that to me prior to Saturday night at 7pm to [pastortim@clintonchristianchurch.com](mailto:pastortim@clintonchristianchurch.com) and I will add those to the prayer list. This includes those that will not be at worship as well.
4. OFFERING – We will not be passing the offering plate during the worship service. There will baskets available in designated locations in the church where you can drop off your tithe/offering. You may do this on the way in or on the way out. We will say a prayer of dedication for these gifts. Keep in mind, there will be no writing instruments to write checks and no offering envelopes in the pews. So please have your tithes/offerings ready before arrival. Thank you for your continued support of the work of the church.
5. DOXOLOGY – Jim will play the Doxology but we will be unable to sing it. Singing can project COVID 19 virus up to 30 feet, so we ask that no one sing.
6. COMMUNION – Communion will consist of a pre-packaged communion kit that has juice in a communion cup with a lid over it. On that lid will be a wafer of “bread” with a lid on it as well. Directions on how we will do that will come from me while I am at the Communion Table. We kindly ask that you take your communion trash with you as you leave. A trash receptacle will be available at the exit door.
7. EXITING – We will have someone dismiss you, row by row, starting from the back so we can continue to maintain a social distance of 6 foot. As mentioned before, please wear your mask as you are exiting. Of course, you may take off your mask as soon as you get outside. We are asking you to exit the sanctuary by the southwest double doors leading outside from the sanctuary. We realize that under some circumstances some of you will have to exit out of different doors. NO ONE IS TO EXIT ANY OF THE BACK DOORS.

Some final thoughts:

USING THE RESTROOM – There will only be allowed one person at a time in the restroom. Signs will be there to remind you. If a family needs to use the restroom (parent/child, etc) we ask that you use the handicap restroom at the end of the hall. Please follow all cleanliness guidelines that we have been following for the last three months when it pertains to using the restroom.

HYMNS – We will not have hymns this first week because we ask for no singing. Singing, as mentioned above, can spread the virus up to 30 feet.

FAMILY GROUPS – We realize that many of you sit with the same people each week. We are going to allow you to make your own decision about who is in your family group. If you are comfortable sitting with them then by all means do so.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – in the beginning we are suspending all Sunday school classes. This includes Worship and Wonder as well. As the weeks roll by, we will revisit this and hopefully get the classes back to study.

HOLY GROUNDS ROOM – Unfortunately, we are having to suspend activities in the Holy Grounds room as well. We will revisit this at a later date.

ALL OF THESE GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE NOT TO HINDER YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE BUT RATHER TO ALLOW US TO RESTART WORSHIP GATHERINGS IN THE SAFEST WAY POSSIBLE. WE LOVE YOU ALL AND WANT EVERYONE TO BE SAFE AND HEALTHY AS WE CAUTIOUSLY OPEN OUR BUILDING UP FOR WORSHIP. WE ARE ALL ADULTS. THE SAFER WE MAKE THIS THE MORE PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY COME BACK AND EVENTUALLY WE WILL BE BACK TO SOME KIND OF NORMAL. JUST A FINAL HEADS UP, IF YOU ARE EXPECTING WORSHIP SERVICE TO LOOK LIKE IT HAS IN THE PAST, IT WILL NOT. THERE WILL BE NO SHAKING HANDS OR HUGGING. THIS WORSHIP SERVICE WILL NOT LOOK LIKE ANY WORSHIP SERVICE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED SINCE I HAVE BEEN PASTOR HERE.

TAKE CARE – Pastor Tim