

Welcome back to St. Timothy's!

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Psalms 95:6

We are so excited to be able to reopen our “doors” for in-person worship! God is faithful and good, and it is so good to come together to praise Him with thankful hearts. We have patiently awaited this day for many months, and we are so glad to be able to open up an opportunity to gather and praise God together.

With this in mind, it is still of the utmost importance that our in-person gathering is as safe and responsible as possible. We have put together a plan to ensure the safety of our in-person gathering, and want to make sure everyone is informed of our plan to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This process has taken into account many factors, including varying comfort levels among the congregation with returning to in-person gatherings. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable with meeting in person, so we encourage you to continue worshipping with us online until you are ready. Due to limited space, reservations for service must be made ahead of time.

Additionally, we ask that if you are showing any symptoms of being unwell (fever, cough, malaise, body aches, etc.), have recently tested positive, or been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, that you stay home. We also encourage those in a high-risk group to stay home as well and continue to worship with us online. For those who are going to attend an in-person service, please read the following guidelines carefully so that our services together can run as smoothly as possible. Before attending, **please conduct a self-screening at home** with the following questions:

- Do you feel or recently felt feverish, had a temperature over 100.0 degrees, or recently had any other COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, chills, headaches, muscle/body aches, confusion, or loss of taste/smell?
- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have come into close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, we urge you to please stay home from our worship service and contact a healthcare provider.

Thank you for respectfully complying with these safety guidelines that have been put in place for the protection of our community. Again, we are so glad to be able to worship in person, but still eagerly await the day when we can worship without so many social restrictions. Throughout this pandemic and our shelter-in-place orders, we remember our call to be God’s Church at all times, wherever we are. We are continually praying for strengthened faith in our walks with God, and for a strengthened witness to the world around us, even when we cannot meet together in the way we are used to.

Safety Protocols for In-Person Worship Service:

1. Seats for the in-person service must be reserved in advance using our online reservation system. You will need to reserve one seat *per person* in your household who will be attending. You will receive an email from the church office each week with a link to the registration site. Reservations will open on the Monday before the service you would like to attend and will close on that Thursday, or when the reservations are full. If the service has filled up, you will be given an option to be put on a waitlist, in case anyone cancels their reservation. *We encourage you to take advantage of this option!* You will be contacted that week if a spot opens up.
2. It is required that any person over the age of 2 must wear a face mask. Face masks must cover nose and mouth, be on upon entry, and remain on for the entirety of your time on campus. We ask that you bring your own mask, but masks will be provided at the welcome table for you as needed.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at the welcome table and at the service. We ask that each person uses it upon arrival, and it will be available for use at any time during the service.
4. Each household with a reservation will be assigned seating that is at least 6 feet away from other households. Seats will be sanitized before each service. We ask that you maintain a distance of 6 feet from all other households during the time you are on campus. We ask parents to ensure that children stay with their households and do not touch any playground equipment.
5. Bathrooms will be available for use, and will be sanitized before and after each service.
6. Water fountains are turned off so you may consider bringing a water bottle with you.
7. We will have music during the service. Singing is permitted at outdoor services but your mask must remain on.
8. On a communion Sunday, any communing member(s) of the household will be given the elements in an individually wrapped package to bring with them into the service. When it is time for communion, you may briefly take off your mask.
9. We will not be collecting offerings in person, so please continue to give with the method you are currently using.
10. To comply with county guidelines, we ask all people attending the service to please leave immediately following the service.