



Indian Run UMC Reopening Information Regarding In-person, Indoor Worship September 28, 2020

Thank you for taking the time to fully review all of the following information regarding our re-opening for in-person, indoor worship. The information is extensive but important for everyone to know.

Re-opening Survey Results

- Your feedback was truly helpful as we developed plans for re-opening – THANK YOU!
- 112 surveys were returned, representing 238 total people (167 adults, 52 children, 19 youth)
- When do you plan on coming back to in-person, indoor worship?
 - o 30% As soon as it's available
 - o 36% Not immediately, but likely to come in the near future
 - o 21% Not until there's a COVID vaccine
- Given these results, as well as historical attendance patterns, we anticipate initial in-person worship attendance to be around 50 people, maybe more, maybe less
- The livestream will continue to be the worship experience for approximately 2/3 of our congregation

Building Improvements

- Hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the building
- An Ionization Air Purifier has been installed in the HVAC systems in the sanctuary
- The air exchange rates of all the rooms in the building have been evaluated
 - o The Covid aerosol study for singing suggests a minimum air change rate of 1x per hour, 3x preferred
 - Sanctuary HVAC systems exchange air 4x per hour (every 15 minutes)
 - Other rooms in the church are between 6-15x per hour (every 4-10 minutes)
 - o We feel confident that our airflow is more than sufficient for Covid
- A new sidewalk extending from the back of the sanctuary to the parking lot is being installed this week to support those who want to limit their time in the building
- Touchless fixtures will be installed in the restrooms by the office in the near future

Worship Service

- The service time has been **changed to 10:00am** so that we will have a little more time to ensure all the technology and sound levels are configured correctly for the livestream
 - o Please do not arrive before 9:45
 - o The livestream will begin at 9:45 with slides and music
 - o Worship will begin at 10:00
- There will be **one service** with music provided by both our traditional and contemporary teams
 - o We will **not** have the 11:00 outdoor service

- Masks that cover the mouth, nose, and chin will be required at all times when inside the building
 - o Following the policy of the Dublin City Schools, we will require masks for children who are in kindergarten and above
 - o All singers and other worship leaders will wear masks at all times, with the following exception:
 - According to guidance given by the Franklin County Health Department in a recent conference call with religious leaders, a person speaking at a podium or pulpit does not need to wear a mask
 - Pastor Jeff will not wear a mask when preaching
 - This will especially help those who need to see someone's lips to be able to fully understand what they are saying
 - Our pulpit is more than 15 feet away from the closest pew
- Seating will be physically distanced with every other pew or row of chairs marked off
 - o Households will sit together
 - o The longer pews in the back of the sanctuary can accommodate three groupings of physically distant seating
 - If you arrive early and want to sit in one of these pews, please move to the center of the pew so that others can access available seating in the same pew without having to brush by you
- All gathering for fellowship will need to take place outside
 - o Fellowship hall will be closed
 - o Once inside the building you will proceed straight into the sanctuary and will exit the building immediately following the service
 - Ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows
 - Those who want to limit their time in the building can use the new sidewalk to enter or exit directly from the sanctuary
 - To limit gathering in the narthex, coat hangers have been removed
 - Physically distant seating gives room for coats
- Congregational singing will be allowed
 - o We have reviewed the findings of the aerosol study done by the International Coalition of Performing Arts, which indicate that indoor singing is ok as long as:
 - Physical distance of 6' or more
 - Well-fitting masks are worn
 - Singing is less than 30 minutes straight with 5 minute breaks between extended times of singing
 - Air change rates are at least 1x/hour, 3x preferred (the sanctuary is 3.9x/hour)
 - o We ask that you sing loudly from your hearts but softly from your lips
- We will not receive communion inside
 - o Individually sealed communion elements will be provided as you exit the building to be consumed outside or at home
- Everyone will be asked to register their attendance so that we can contact you if a case of Covid is reported to us
- A basket will be available for offerings so that we do not have to pass plates
- There will be no bulletin or other printed materials until further notice

Children's Ministries

- Nursery care and preschool Sunday School will be provided
 - o We recognize that children under 5 years old have the most difficulty in worship
 - o We have successfully reopened our Preschool and PMO ministries and are confident in our ability to provide care to this age range that does not require physical distancing
- A safe plan for Elementary and youth Sunday School is still being developed
 - o We are waiting until kids get used to the physical distancing practices they experience in school and can translate those good habits to their time at church
 - o As we reopen for Sunday School we will following the lead of the Dublin City Schools regarding distancing and other best practices
 - o We are still developing plans regarding which rooms will best accommodate physically distanced Sunday School
- Given the expected attendance levels, preregistration will not be required at this point but may be required in the future as things change
- Check-in of children and printing of nametags will be touchless either through an app with Bluetooth capabilities or entered into the computer by a children's ministry leader

Concluding Notes

- Please stay home if you feel sick, have any Covid symptoms, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid within the last two weeks
- We are thankful for your patience and grace!
 - o While many people have thoughtfully prepared for our re-opening (probably even over-thinking some things), it is likely that we will discover things that we have missed
 - o It is likely that we will need to continue to adapt and change things as we learn and experience more
 - o The livestream will likely need to be tweaked and adjusted as we learn and adapt to the new technology that has been installed