

June 2, 2020

Dear members and friends of Eastminster,

On May 27, Session approved guidelines developed by its Task Force on Re-opening Eastminster. The guidelines cover everything from best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19 to keeping the church building clean and virus-free. The safety of everyone, especially our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, was of primary concern.

We would like to share the guidelines most pertinent to worshipers returning to in-person worship at Eastminster. These guidelines will apply from June 14 to August 31, although Session may consider adjustments if conditions change either for better or worse. During August, the task force and Session will revise the guidelines in the light of conditions expected for fall and beyond.

Guidelines for attending worship services at Eastminster, June through August

- In-person worship services will resume **Sunday, June 14, with one service at 10:30 a.m.**
 - *No one should feel they must attend; staying at home is still best if you feel it is the right thing for you and your family. We will continue to post the worship service online so you can keep watching and participating at home if you wish. Of course, anyone who is ill, symptomatic, or has been exposed to someone with the COVID-19 within 14 days should not attend. CDC guidelines also routinely recommend that people over the age of 65 and those with underlying health conditions should be especially careful.*
- Worshipers will enter and exit only through the Gallery doors, which will be attended by Greeters so that no one needs to touch door handles. All other doors will remain locked.
- Masks will be available at the door for those who need one.
- There will be no pre-service fellowship gatherings (such as at coffee stations or in the Fellowship Hall).
- Only the center doors to the sanctuary will be used for entering and exiting the sanctuary. Ushers will escort worshipers to their seats before the service and direct the dismissal of worshipers by rows at the end of the service, starting from the back of the sanctuary.
- Seating by the ushers will be done to accommodate social distancing of at least six feet, except among families and friends who have been living together.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the building. Church staff will regularly sanitize all surfaces, including door knobs/handles, any flat surfaces, pews, and equipment. As much as possible, worshipers should avoid touching surfaces such as counters and doors.
- Access to rest rooms will be limited to the one in the narthex and those located in the Parlor hallway.
- Some elements of the church service will be different than usual. Instead of bulletins, the Order of Service will be displayed on a screen at the front of the sanctuary. There will be music but no congregational singing. Offering plates will be available in the narthex rather than being passed during the service.

Should you have any questions or concerns about these guidelines, please feel free to contact the church office or reach out to a deacon or Session member. We would like to help you and ensure that everyone has a safe and blessed return to in-person services.

In the service of Christ,

Members of Eastminster Session