

Resuming In-Person Worship Frequently Asked Questions

Please know, that there is no **pressure, obligation** or **assumption** that you will attend in-person worship. We will continue to offer online worship and we **hope, expect** and **anticipate** that many people will feel safer worshipping in that way and may have found online worship to be convenient and offers flexibility. Whether you are worshipping in-person or online, you are a part of the Aldersgate Community!

What should I expect when I arrive at church for worship?

Please park in the east or west parking lots and enter/exit the building through the Main Entrance or Office Entrance doors.

Please do **not** use the west Ramp Door near the Wesley Room or the lower level Family Life Center doors to access the building.

The Main Entrance and Office Entrance doors will be propped open or opened for you by a Greeter.

We are requiring that everyone who attends worship wear a face covering. (Children under the age of 3 or those having a condition that prevents masking will not be required to wear face coverings). We will have a face coverings available if you forget to bring one.

Please put on your face covering before you enter the building, keep it on during the entire service and wear it until you have exited the building.

We are asking that you please do **not** come to the church significantly before the 9:30 services begin and that you leave promptly afterward. We will not be having Fellowship Time following worship services.

If you want to have extended conversation with another person, please do that outside in the parking lot, while maintaining safe social distancing.

Please limit your access in the building to the sanctuary and narthex gathering areas. The educational wing on the main level and the entire lower level are currently restricted access.

Please do **not** congregate in any area, especially not in areas where others are entering or exiting the building.

The children's nursery will not be staffed and the nursery area is currently not available for use.

What will worship be like?

Sanctuary seating has been identified with about half of the pews accessible so that individuals/couples/families will be able to maintain a safe social distancing of 6 feet from other members. Please sit only with others that you have a family relationship to.

Bulletins will be placed on the pews prior to the service or will be available to be picked up as you enter the sanctuary.

Hymnals and Pew Bibles have been removed from the sanctuary. All readings will be projected on the screens.

We will not be distributing or receiving back Connect Cards. If you have pastoral care needs or prayer concerns to share with staff, please communicate those directly on Thursday or Sunday morning or during the week by email, phone or text.

The Children's worship items and children's worship activity packs have been removed from the sanctuary.

The worship service will be shortened with the goal of about 30-40 minutes.

Once you are seated, there will not be any required times of standing. You will be able to remain seated during the entirety of the service.

We will not be having any congregational singing or vocal solos during the service and will significantly limiting any congregational prayers or responsive readings.

We will not be passing offering plates during the service. Offering plates will be provided at the back of the sanctuary when worship is concluded.

Both the Thursday morning and Sunday morning services will be at 9:30 a.m. The services will both follow the same format and flow. You may come to either service. The Thursday service will be recorded and provided online the following Saturday evening.

Our communion service on the first Sundays of the month we will have a new liturgy and format. We will be distributing individually sealed cups and wafers. Communion elements can be consumed **outside** the church building following the service. Weather permitting, we will receive the elements together outside as a gathered community.

What else should I be aware of or plan on?

If you feel ill, are running a fever, have any COVID-19 symptoms, if you know or suspect that you have been around someone who has COVID-19 or has recently tested positive, or if you have tested positive within the past 14 days please do **NOT** come to worship! Wait until you are confident that you are non-symptomatic and/or that you have tested negative.

While some people attending in-person worship will have received their first vaccine, some will have received both their first and second dose, and some will have surpassed the CDC recommended 14 day period following their second dose; others attending worship may not yet be eligible for a vaccination or have been fully vaccinated. **Currently, this is the case with staff as well.** Those under the age of 16 will not be eligible for vaccinations for some time.

Greet people with a wave and a smile, not with handshakes or hugs.

Several areas of the church have been designated as “Restricted Area”. Please respect those restrictions. If you need to access a restricted area, please get permission from a staff member.

Maintain a safe and comfortable distance from others of *at least* 6 feet. Be especially aware that each person has their own sense of what a ‘safe’ and ‘comfortable’ space is.

Refrain as much as possible from touching common surfaces (door handles, table tops, pew backs).

Limit use of the bathrooms as much as possible. If you use the bathroom, please wipe down any surfaces that you have touched (toilet handle, faucet, counter, light switch, and door handle).

The Chin Congregation is currently worshipping in the Family Life Center and is worshipping on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. The Chin Congregation is entering and exiting the building through the FLC lower level doors on the south end of the building.

It may become necessary to close the building or portions of the building after we begin in-person worship. Examples might be a COVID-19 exposure during a worship service or in the building during the week.

If there is a self-reported COVID-19 exposure in the building a notice will be sent out by email.

It might also become necessary to move back to online worship only due to a sustained rise in Positive New COVID-19 Cases.

If you still have questions or would like more information about any of the safety protocols do not hesitate to ask! You may contact the church office or contact Eric directly.