

Whitney UMC Resumes In-Person Worship on June 13th!

We believe we can now safely partially reopen our building for in-person worship. Services will begin Sunday, June 13th at 10:00 a.m. While services will be different for a while, this is a big step toward being able to worship together – sharing prayers and love and laughter.

It is also important for you to know that we won't be discontinuing our online worship services either. They have become an important part of how we can share together any day of the week – not just Sunday morning. So, if you aren't ready or comfortable with returning to in-person worship yet; that's okay. The online service will still be there. And, we want to stress that on any given Sunday; if you do not feel well, please stay home and participate in the online service instead.

Our plan includes 22 different steps — I won't bore you with all the details. But I know many of you want to know what to expect. So, here's a few of the main points:

- Masks covering the nose and mouth are required inside the building and outside too.
- Social distancing is required both outdoors and inside the building.
- No reservations are required; but capacity is reduced by increased seating distances.
- Families with children will be welcomed and instructed that all family members are encouraged to attend the service and sit together.
- Nursery will be open and all staff members shall remain masked at all times.
- Worshippers will be led to their seats by ushers and instructed in exiting via assigned exits promptly after the service.
- There shall be at least 2 empty seats between household units. Ushers will add placards to seats that must remain empty.
- There can be no coffee hour or refreshments.
- There can be no congregational singing. (Strict Conference Rule)
- There will be no passing of collection plates. Offering boxes will be available at the exits.
- People will be asked to leave the building promptly at the conclusion of the service.

This may seem like a lot of do's and don'ts — but they are all important steps to being together again. We ask for your help and enthusiastic participation as we work through this process together. We will have some hick-ups and will certainly make some mistakes; but be kind and helpful and we will all learn together. For questions, text or email Rich Keefe, our COVID-19 safety coordinator at 208-830-9166 or richkeefe@aol.com

We are looking forward to seeing you June 13th!

Blessings from your Whitney UMC Church Council