



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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6/10/20

Dear Trinity Church Member,

The Wisconsin Conference has provided guidelines for reopening our building and as part of Trinity's planning, we want to communicate with our members and regular attendees of our services that adjustments will be required before reopening our church.

The following guidelines have been developed to help aid our church in its steps to reopen and resume somewhat normal activities. Great consideration has been given to safety and the ability to mitigate transmission of the coronavirus at our gatherings. Bear in mind that governmental and other public health mandates may significantly change some of these steps (either accelerating or decelerating them). The goal is to provide guidelines which will help alleviate people's fears and concerns--while at the same time encouraging the church to remember that its mission to carry the Gospel forth continues and that our fellowship, while needing to adjust to worldwide realities, is still integral to our faith and our daily practice. We want people to feel as comfortable as possible coming back to an in-person service, so that they can receive encouragement and comfort and inspiration from the Lord and from each other.

TRINITY GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING - SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

The following guidelines are based on some of the suggestions from the WI Conference for returning to public worship at Trinity United Methodist Church, beginning Sunday, June 21, 2020.

1. SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

- a. Open for anyone to attend beginning Sunday, June 21, 2020.
 - b. People should attend worship services only if they are comfortable with having interaction with other people. Your decision to attend or not attend is respected.
 - c. Note, Trinity has and will continue a very strict sanitizing of all high-touch areas, including restrooms, which will be cleaned/disinfected prior to each Sunday service. However, everyone entering will be doing so at your own discretion.
 - d. People who attend Sunday worship services are welcome to bring a mask and wear it during the +time they are at church.
 - e. People are welcome to bring hand sanitizer and use it at their discretion. Trinity will also provide hand sanitizer.
2. **ENTERING CHURCH:** Please use the East parking lot door and proceed directly to sanctuary, keeping your social distancing of 6 feet from others, and be seated. No gathering in groups.
 3. **OPEN AREAS:** Only the main floor has been sanitized and will be open for worship on Sundays; There will be NO access to upstairs or downstairs as they will be off limits until further notice.

4. SEATING:

- a. Open pews will have 2 bulletins in place to indicate available seating on that row. Every other pew will be left empty or blocked off to aid in social distancing.
 - b. Suggesting that family groups sit together with a minimum of 6 ft. separation from other families or singles.
5. **NO PASSING:** of offering plates, bulletins, communion elements. You are encouraged to bring your own Bibles, as the pew hymnals, Bibles, connect cards and pencils have been removed for the time being.
 6. **OFFERTORY:** requesting all offerings be placed in the offering plates at back of sanctuary on tables behind last row of pews.
 7. **COMMUNION:** there will be prepackage elements placed in the pre-determined open pews
 8. **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** will not be meeting until safety for such gatherings has been determined. Children are to remain in the family group at all times.
 9. **COFFEE HOUR:** food and beverage will not be available at this time.
 10. **EXITING CHURCH:** When service is over people shall be dismissed back to front at 6 ft intervals. Please proceed to the East parking lot door. No gathering in groups.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. If you have a fever, are symptomatic, or exposed to the virus, STAY HOME.
- b. It is recommended that handshaking and hugs not be practiced until we can see if there are any health problems that arise from interactions. Use your own judgment.
- c. Everyone should observe covering their cough or sneeze by putting their mouth and nose into their elbow joint when they sneeze or cough.
- d. Hand surfaces may carry communal diseases so people may want to wear gloves or immediately use hand sanitizer when entering or exiting doors or touching other communal surfaces.
- e. Be conscious of other people's comfort zones during this time and try to honor those spaces. This may mean staying six feet away even when talking.

Our mission is to strive to serve God and neighbor as faithful United Methodists. We know that our work is imperfect and incomplete, but we pray that it will guide you and give you hope as you serve in the context where you are called as you prepare for the future. It is possible that we may be opening and closing and reopening in the days ahead, should there be waves of the COVID virus that hit our communities again.

We will strive to update you as conditions change as they surely will!

With gratitude and blessings,

Pastor Rey Diaz