

Dear Friends in Christ,

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church plans to reopen soon with one service of worship at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please refer to the Friday Flash and the website for the specific date when in-person worship will begin.

The reopening will be a welcome event for many of us who long to worship together. Our primary concern is for the safety of all.

For those who prefer to worship in the safety of their home, we will continue to provide the live stream worship service on the "Online Worship" page of our website at WGPC.org. We understand your concern and respect your decision; the Church gathers in worship in many places and ways!

The committee planning the reopening of the church has formed the following procedures to help people worship safely. Please take note of these procedures before attending worship:

Sign up to attend

To meet the recommendations of St. Louis County for the number of people allowed in the building, those who plan to attend church on any given Sunday should register in advance. A [Sign Up Genius registration](#) will be online and a link to it will be in the Friday Flash. You also may register by leaving a message at the church office (314-962-9210). Some seats will be reserved for members who do not use the Internet and people who may walk in from the community. Everyone who enters the building for worship will be asked to sign in.

Masks

For the sake of all, those planning to attend church *must be symptom free and have not had contact with a person with COVID-19 for at least 14 days*. Masks are required. Worship leaders will wear masks except when speaking.

Entering and Leaving the Church

Use the Memorial Garden door and the Hale entrance for entering and exiting the church. *As you enter or exit, please practice social distancing allowing at least six feet between you and other people* in the congregation. At each doorway, Greeters will check names off the registration sheet. If you have not pre-registered, you will be asked to complete a registration form. Greeters will practice social distancing – providing guidance and information but not shaking hands.

Please use the hand sanitizer available at each entrance when entering and leaving.

Those entering from the parking lot through the Memorial Garden door should come into the sanctuary through the back door, down the outside aisle and fill the church from front to back. Every other pew will be marked to ensure social distancing.

We encourage those with mobility issues to use the Memorial Garden door to avoid the elevator.

Those entering through the Hale entrance (under the atrium) should come in the pastor's door, travel down the outside aisle and fill the church from the back to front. Ushers will be present to guide worshippers as needed.

When the worship service is over, the congregation will be dismissed by rows through the same doors they came in. Although we have deeply missed worshipping together, we urge those in attendance to avoid gathering for conversation inside the building! Weather permitting, you may chat in the parking lot with masks on and observing social distancing recommendations.

Worship

The worship service is a special time for all our members, but there are necessary changes designed to help keep each other safe.

- During the **passing of the peace**, congregants should not leave their pews or offer handshakes or hugs. A smile and a nod or a friendly hello across the aisle can serve as a physically-distant sign of peace. We encourage creativity!
- For the **offering**, we encourage everyone to give their contribution online. No plate will be passed during the service. Designated offering receptacles will be near sanctuary exits if you prefer to give in person.
- The sacrament of **the Lord's Supper** is typically held on the second Sunday of the month. We are working to create safe ways for us to share this important ritual. Stay tuned!
- For a **baptism**, please make an appointment to discuss the event with a pastor.
- Please bring your Bible. For the time being we will be removing materials from the pews.

The following activities and programs remained closed: **Fellowship Hour, Children's and Adult Library, Christian Education, Nursery, Pray Ground, and activity bags for older children**. Families are invited to bring their own quiet activities for use in the pews.

Greeters, ushers, liturgists and staff will be trained for their roles. Our custodial staff is working to ensure our church is clean and ready.

We look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you and being God's holy church in person and online! If you have any questions about attending worship or the procedures as outlined in this letter, call one of the pastors or Betsy Wacker.

Peace and good health to you and your families!

The Reopening Task Force