

Salem United Church of Christ Covid Task Force

“Moving Forward”

In view of the progress being made throughout our society and the great number of folks now vaccinated, we are desirous of returning to our traditional worship practices as much as possible. Our goal is to offer as many flexible options as we can so that as many people as possible feel comfortable in worship. It is not to press any one agenda so that any one person or group feels like church is “exactly the way I want it all to be.” We have a responsibility to care for ALL of God’s flock.

Moving Forward in Worship To Begin May 2

1. Sanctuary Distancing:
 - a. We will remove ropes from some of the pews, while also keeping some up.
 - b. We will remove ropes from west side of the Nave, the East and West Transepts, and the Balcony.
 - c. We will leave ropes up on the east side of the Nave.
2. Masks:
 - a. Masks will no longer be required.
 - b. Those comfortable without masks may sit in the un-roped sections.
 - c. Those who wish to continue to wear masks and want social distancing may sit in the east side of the Nave.
 - d. Of course, if someone wishes to wear a mask but is comfortable sitting in the un-roped sections, they may certainly do so.
 - e. Wearing masks when entering and departing worship is still preferable for the encouragement and comfort of our Christian sisters and brothers.
3. Standing and Sitting: We will resume standing at appropriate times during the service.
4. Time with the Children:
 - a. Children will again be invited to come forward during the Children’s Sermon.
 - b. They will not be forced to come forward. They may remain in their pews if they desire.
 - c. They may or may not wear masks when they come forward, at the discretion of their parents.
5. Choir and Bells:
 - a. The choir will continue to sing from the front steps of the Chancel when they sing.
 - b. The bells will, under the direction of Dawn, perform however they believe to be appropriate.
6. Ushers: Our ushers will continue to mask while serving.
7. Passing of the Peace: We will not yet be passing the peace at this time.
8. Holding Hands during the Lord’s Prayer: We will not yet be holding hands.
9. Offering: We will not yet be passing the offering plates. Please continue your current giving practices.
10. Entering Church: All aisles and doors will be reopened and you may enter wherever you prefer.
11. Exiting Church:
 - a. The ushers will dismiss the east (socially distanced) side of the Nave first.
 - b. Following that, all will be free to exit as they wish.

Moving Forward with Traditional Pew Communion To Begin June 6

1. Traditional Pew Communion, served by the Church Council, will resume.
2. The Church Council will wear masks when serving Communion.
3. Individual Communion servings will still be available for pick up in the Narthex for those who prefer.