



# Grace United Methodist Church

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Dear Grace Church Family,

It seems like FOREVER since we have been together in church!

A group of us has been assigned the task of developing a plan for re-gathering for worship at Grace Church. We have had several meetings thus far and spent much time in planning, in sorting through the “What if...”s and in researching recommendations & best practices.

Our target for restarting worship together is **Sunday, June 28**. This will include the 8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 o'clock worship services. Nursery availability and Sunday school classes will resume at a later date.

As you might imagine, things will not look or feel quite the same.

Though we are very anxious to come together again, we are striving to do this in a way that will be as safe and prudent as possible, applying the recommendations of our national health experts to our particular building and circumstance.

When we reconvene, we propose the following:

- 1) **Masking:** Wear a face mask or facial covering when you get out of your vehicle, as you approach the church entrance, and throughout the time we are together.
- 2) **Distancing:** You may sit in close proximity with your family members. For those outside your home, please observe the 6-foot distance from fellow parishioners. Follow this guideline as you approach the building and enter as well.
- 3) **Greeting:** As you enter the building, greeters will be stationed at all entrances, including the elevator entry. They will give you a dollop of hand sanitizer, record your name and phone number, & point you in the right direction. (Recording this information is important in case of any potential exposures to COVID.) Though difficult for many of us, we will need to avoid handshakes, hugs, and the physical closeness as we strive to maintain our distancing.
- 4) **Seating:** Ushers will assist you with seating, which has been planned to help with distancing and to minimize contamination. Particular pews will be flagged for use for each service. After each service, the pews utilized will be cleaned. You will also note that the Bibles, hymnals, and pew cards have been removed as recommended. But please feel free to bring your own Bible!
- 5) **Service:** To minimize passing things from one person to another, bulletin information will be projected. The church office will send out bulletins by e-mail before each Sunday if you would like to print one to bring. Pastor Bill and any lay readers will remove masks to talk, maintaining distancing from parishioners and each other. Since singing is now known to project many more coronavirus particles than normal talking, in case a parishioner is unknowingly infected, we regretfully will avoid corporate singing for now.
- 6) **Illness:** If you have a fever or are ill with any cough, breathing or intestinal symptoms, stay home and join our on-line worship broadcasts. Likewise, if you have a serious medical condition or problems with your immune system, it might be wise to avoid gatherings, even with all the precautions.

As before the COVID crisis, the 9:30 & 11:00 services will be broadcast on YouTube & Facebook. Services can be viewed “live” or any time after the service has ended. ([www.graceumcwarrenpa.com](http://www.graceumcwarrenpa.com)) DVDs of the services will also be available. Times are uncertain, and some parishioners might not yet be comfortable returning to gathering together in church. This is totally acceptable and understandable. No one should feel pressured to return before they feel led to do so. We ask for your prayers as we continue this process.

Re-Gathering at Grace Task Force

Pastor Bill Beatty, Alice Bonnell, Cindy Dziendziel, Nicki Egger, Bill Gentilman, Floyd Moore, Alice Pedersen, Cindy Price, Keith Price – Chair, Sue Toombs

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46