

We will also be meeting for in-person worship this Sunday. Below are the guidelines for attending in-person Worship:

Plan for Resuming In-person Worship at Tryon UMC

Since March, every Church Council meeting has contained a conversation about when we might be able to come together again for In-person worship. At our Church Council meeting on September 29th, we discussed this once again. Here's what Church Council decided:

If the state of North Carolina moves to Phase III on October 2nd, we will begin in-person worship on October 18th in accordance with the guidelines adopted by Church Council. If we find that before October 18th that decision needs to be changed, Church Council will convene to re-assess this decision. We will continue to broadcast all services on Facebook Live and all services will be recorded and will be on our website.

The Guidelines are as follows:

1. Worship will be shortened to 40-45 minutes total time (from prelude to postlude)
2. Masks must be worn when entering the building and throughout worship. Masks may be removed once folks are outside of the building, but those attending worship are encouraged to wear them until they get to their vehicles.
3. Hand sanitizer will be at each entrance to use before going into the sanctuary.
4. Those attending worship are asked to sit in designated places in the pews. Those will be clearly marked.
5. No more than 45 people may be in attendance at worship. (with the 5 people who are part of the worship team, that will be the maximum number of people who can be safely in our sanctuary).
6. Anyone who refuses to wear a mask will be asked to leave unless they have a medical reason not to wear one.
7. We will ask that folks to refrain from hugging, shaking hands or doing anything that puts them closer than 6 feet to a person who is not a family member.
8. We will need to keep an attendance record of everyone so that in the event of someone testing positive for C-19, we will have a record in which to notify folks of that. One of the trustees or greeters in attendance will be asked to keep that record.
9. In the event someone who has attended a worship service does test positive for C-19, we will stop in-person worship immediately and will not resume until it is clear that we are at least two weeks out from that case or any subsequent cases.

10. Bulletins, announcements, and prayer lists will be printed and placed in designated seats. They will be there by Thursday, giving adequate time for them to be in place and untouched for more than 48 hours.
11. We will not sing or pass the peace during worship. We will do some of our corporate prayers, but those will be limited. We will recite the psalter together, which will be printed in the bulletin. Collection plates will be placed at the entrance but will not be passed during worship.
12. We will remove all Bibles, hymnals and other items from the pew racks.
13. Congregants will be asked to remain 6 feet apart upon entering and exiting the sanctuary. Those who need to use the elevator will be asked to confine that to only one person or family unit at a time. Hand sanitizer will be at the elevator door to use before or after entering.
14. We will ask the cleaning team to wipe down all pews and surfaces when they come to clean on Wednesdays or Thursdays before worship on Sunday.
15. Before the benediction and before the prelude, the pastor will ask the congregation to remember the procedure for exiting the sanctuary.
16. Following the benediction, the pastor will go to the office entrance to open all doors for easy exit. All sanctuary doors will remain open before and after the service.
17. The doors for the office entrance will be opened 20 minutes before worship and will remain open 15 minutes after worship begins. Those doors will be closed and locked until after worship. The front entrance and the double doors from the nave to the sanctuary will remain open for the entire service.
18. Signage with instructions will be placed in all areas they are needed.
19. Usage of bathrooms will be limited to two people at a time.
20. The pastor and liturgist will use masks when not speaking at the pulpit. The music director will have enough distance from everyone, and her use of masks is optional, based on her needs and how that affects her work. The audio/video operators will wear masks.
21. The two front pews on each side and the back pew in front of the audio/video equipment will not be used.
22. Use of the church by smaller groups can continue to be done by virtual meetings or in person with proper guidelines being followed. Anyone who uses a space will be asked to wipe down surfaces used after use. Groups must wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines when using any space for more than 15 minutes. Doors should remain open for as much air circulation as possible.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Lynnette at 828-712-7119 or lrj.sills52@gmail.com
Thank you for your compliance and understanding.