



First (Scots) Presbyterian Church PC(USA)
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In joyful anticipation of worshiping in-person, our Session has adopted a set of Guidelines for Resuming Corporate Worship, which are intended to protect the health and wellness of our church family!

While we are exceedingly grateful for the opportunity to once again gather for worship, we understand that some of you may wish to wait a little longer before returning to church. It simply cannot be emphasized strongly enough that no one should feel pressure to return to in-person worship; indeed, the opportunity will remain for anyone to worship and glorify God via our live stream option each Sunday morning (www.first-scots.org).

The following guidelines for in-person worship are the result of numerous conversations with many of you, doctors, pastors, church administrators, local municipalities, and our own Worship Committee and Session. They are also in compliance with social distancing requirements and other health and safety recommendations.

We ask that those who can worship in person with us follow the guidelines below to ensure we worship responsibly.

1. Arrive no more than 15 minutes early and sit in designated seating areas.

Because we will thoroughly clean the sanctuary for each service, we ask that you arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the service and that you use the restrooms only in the case of an urgent need. When you arrive, please follow the ushers' guidance and sit in the designated areas. Directional signs will be placed throughout the sanctuary to provide additional information.

In keeping with social distancing requirements (a minimum of 6 feet apart), every third pew will be available for all who join us for in-person worship. In the event that we have more people attend a given service than can be safely seated in the sanctuary, we will provide additional seating in the Lilly Chapel with video of the service. Seating in the designated areas will help us maintain distancing requirements as we pray and sing and devote ourselves to the reading and proclamation of God's Word.

2. Wear masks for all in-person services of worship.

Because reports are generally positive about the value of face coverings and in consideration of our neighbors, we require that congregants wear masks throughout each service. This is especially important during the gentle singing of hymns. While we will provide masks each week, given the shortage, you are encouraged to bring and wear your own.

Please note that because worship leaders can maintain enough social distance during the service, they may remove their masks to exercise their specific roles.

3. Employ a "non-touch" approach to Sunday morning worship.

On the portico, you will find several hand sanitizing stations, bulletins containing hymns, friendship sheets and scripture verses, children's worship bags and hearing devices (Note: hymnbooks, Bibles and pew cushions have been temporarily removed from the pew area). The greeters will welcome you on the portico with a smile from behind their masks and will direct you through one of the several Meeting Street entrances where ushers will then guide you to an available pew. Signs will communicate everything from which pews are available to how to dispose of bulletins and where to place hearing devices for cleaning, friendship sheets and offering.

During the service, Passing of the Peace, collecting of our tithes and offerings, as well as other traditional worship elements will proceed without physical contact.

Following the Benediction Response, please follow the ushers' guidance as they will offer assistance to ensure a non-congested departure through either of the two side doors of the sanctuary. For those requiring it, access will also be available to the wheelchair ramp during the arrival and departure period.

4. Please worship from home if you are presently sick or are especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

We welcome and encourage all who prefer or need to stay home to join us each Sunday morning for online worship beginning 10:00 a.m. at www.first-scots.org.

These guidelines will help protect our congregation as we transition to in-person worship. For the health and safety of the congregation, we are making this transition slowly. Initially, we will offer only corporate worship on site; we are not yet offering other Sunday morning activities.

Worship will be our main focus. While members and friends of all ages are very much welcome to join us for worship, for now we will not have nursery, Children's Church, Church Choir (Note: choral offerings in accordance with social distancing requirements will continue to be provided), Sunday School classes, and coffee stations, among our other usual fellowship activities. This minimizes opportunities for unnecessary contact and allows the sanctuary to remain the sole focus of our vigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocol.

The safety and welfare of our church family and guests is of paramount importance!

Though these guidelines will undoubtedly take some getting used to, we feel they strike the right balance and are neither reckless nor unduly burdensome. These guidelines will remain in place until such a time as we can safely resume more normal patterns of worship and church life.

In the meantime, may we be grateful for every opportunity we have to worship and to glorify and enjoy God!

In Christ's Service,



Holton