

GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR WORSHIP

- The church remains closed to all church activities and meetings, and to all outside groups, with the exception of the Trustees. Meeting in the church (while following social distancing guidelines) enables the Trustees to conduct facility checks and maintenance.
- Outdoor worship concludes on October 11 and we will move to worship in the sanctuary at 10 AM beginning October 18. Live streaming of the service will continue.
- Seating for worshipers will be limited to 18 pews in order to accommodate the required minimum 6-foot distance. Only single individuals or groups from the same household/family unit may occupy the same pew.
- Worshipers must reserve a pew via SignUp (at <https://signup.com/go/oqZVREf>) or by calling the office. If the 18 spots are already filled, they will be placed on a waiting list. If there is a cancelation George will contact people in the order they were placed on the waiting list.
- If a visitor arrives and there are no pews available, the greeter will assure the visitor that we are delighted they have found us and we are eager to have them worship with us. The greeter will explain that unfortunately, the service is full this week, explain how to pre-register for the service, and invite them to come back the next week.
- Staff, volunteers, and worshipers who are not feeling well should stay home.
- Anyone who has been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay at home and self-monitor for symptoms per CDC guidelines.
- Parking lot attendants will greet drivers as they arrive to give instructions regarding social distancing, take temperatures, and provide face masks for those without one.
- The temperature of all staff, volunteers, and attendees will be taken with touchless thermometers. Anyone with a temperature above 99.4 degrees will be asked to leave.
- Six feet of distance will be maintained at all times between parishioners not from the same household or family unit.
- Worship leaders will be limited to the pastor, accompanist, and one vocalist (or multiple vocalists from the same household/family unit). A minimum of 16 feet will be maintained between the pastor, vocalist, accompanist, and congregation.
- Face masks are required at all times. The vocalist and pastor may remove their masks to speak or sing only. For the general health of the congregation, persons who cannot wear a mask will be asked to attend the service virtually.
- There will be no physical contact (passing of the peace, hugging, hand shaking, etc.).
- There will be no congregational singing.
- There will be no bulletins. All responsive liturgy will be displayed on the monitor.
- There will be no passing of collection plates. A collection box will be located at the back of the sanctuary where people can drop their offering on their way out.
- If Communion is celebrated, individually sealed elements will be distributed as people arrive. Worshipers will consume the elements in their seats and place the empty packaging in a trash receptacle at the back of the sanctuary when leaving worship.
- All items will be removed from the pews (cushions, hymnals, Bibles, etc.).
- Plexiglas barriers will be erected to separate the two sides of the center pews. Barriers will also be placed in front of the pulpit and lectern, and between the accompanist and the pews.
- Windows will be opened and exhaust fans will be used to increase ventilation.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be conveniently located and small bottles of hand sanitizer will be located in each pew.
- Hearing enhancement devices will be sanitized by ushers before and after use.

- A greeter's station will be located in the entryway, where names and contact tracing information will be logged (or checked off, if preregistered), and squirts of hand sanitizer distributed. The greeter will instruct worshipers which set of stairs to use.
- Ushers will direct worshipers to their pews in an order that minimizes passing by other worshipers. At the conclusion of worship, the pastor will similarly dismiss worshipers.
- All foot traffic will be one-directional, indicated by floor arrows and other signage. Interior doors will be propped open to minimize touching.
- Worshipers must enter and exit by the front door only (unless they need the elevator, in which case they would enter by that door). There will be no access to the rest of the building, except for Sunday School and restroom use.
- The restroom may be accessed only via the entry door near the elevator. If the restroom is needed during worship, it may be accessed via the elevator or elevator stairwell. After using the restroom, return to the sanctuary is via the elevator or by exiting the building via the door near the elevator and re-entering via the front doors.
- Sanitizing wipes and/or spray will be available in the restroom, and a touchless hand sanitizer stationed outside of the restrooms.
- If a second Sunday morning service is initiated, it will be necessary to sanitize the sanctuary in between services. The Reentry Team has been authorized by the Trustees to purchase an electrostatic disinfectant fogger. Volunteers will be recruited to spray the non-toxic sanitizing solution between the services. If we maintain a single Sunday morning worship service, the regular weekly cleaning of the sanctuary will suffice.
- Sunday School will be held in Cargill Hall, with windows open for ventilation. Children will be dropped off prior to worship at the greeter's table and the Sunday School Superintendent will accompany them to Cargill Hall. In order to maintain one-way directional flow, at the conclusion of worship children will be picked up at the Cargill Hall exit door (vs. the front door where they were dropped off).
- Funerals and memorial services in the sanctuary will be allowed for persons connected to AMUMC, but must abide by all the safety guidelines listed above.
- Indoor weddings will not be allowed at this time.
- Baptisms will be conducted with all safety guidelines in place. Baptismal rites will be conducted during the regular course of worship if the number of friends/family members of the baptized can be accommodated within the attendance limits. If that is not possible, the pastor will offer a separate service for the baptism, with representatives of the congregation in attendance.
- The RI Dept. of Health will be notified if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility, and staff and congregants will be informed about potential exposure, while maintaining confidentiality. All areas where the person was present will be thoroughly sanitized.
- If the virus infection rate increases and/or the RI Dept. of Health or New England Conference mandates, the Reentry Team will recommend discontinuation of in-person worship.
- If the conditions of in-person worship do not provide a meaningful worship experience for the majority of the attendees (e.g., the space is prohibitively cold or there is minimal attendance and a 100% virtual service would be of higher quality), the Reentry Team will recommend discontinuation of in-person worship.
- If in-person worship is discontinued, we will return to the use of prerecorded worship videos as we did before going to outdoor worship.