

Mount Jackson UMC

Information/Details on Return to In-Person Worship

Pastor Elfie Finn-McKenzie and the Mount Jackson UMC Healthy Church Team have been working for several weeks to create a plan for a return to in-person worship services. This plan has been developed in strict compliance with the guidelines set forth by Virginia Conference Bishop Sharma Lewis. District Superintendent Victor Gomez has reviewed the plan and approved it, effective Oct. 4, 2020. The pastor and the Healthy Church Team have been gratified by your adherence to the guidelines for our successful Drive-In Worship Services for the past two months, and we are confident that you will continue to comply with the rules as we move to indoor worship. There are many restrictions that we don't particularly like; to be sure, the services will not look and feel completely "normal." However, for the first time in more than nine months, we can be together again in God's house, and that should be cause for praise and celebration.

We also will continue to make the service available in the Mount Jackson parking lot if you choose to worship there. **With the change to indoor services, we will resume our usual worship times: Quicksburg at 9:30 a.m. and Mount Jackson at 11 a.m.** You might want to allow a little extra time

Here is an explanation of what will be required for the indoor worship. Please keep this note handy for future reference. If the restrictions change, you will be notified.

- 1) **Registration/Reservations: Each person will be required to register each week. So, if there are, for example, two people in a household, each must submit a registration form. This must be done by Wednesday evening prior to the service. If you are uncertain about whether you plan to attend, please register in any case. We cannot admit you if you are not registered. (However, you could elect to stay in the parking lot to listen to the service on the radio.) Registration will help us plan our seating arrangements; and it will provide us information that would be necessary for contact tracing in the unfortunate event that someone who attends develops Covid-19. As part of the registration process, you will be asked to confirm that you are not suffering from Covid-19 symptoms or that you recently have been in contact with someone who has the illness. Ways to register:**
 - a. **Fill out the form online at the Virginia Conference website:**
<https://www.evc.vaumc.org/open/worshipregistration/Page1.cfm>
Even if you don't use a computer yourself, perhaps you could ask a family member or friend to do it for you, as this is the most convenient way to register.
 - ◇ **When you sign in you will be asked for your District. On the dropdown screen select Harrisonburg District**
 - ◇ **The next page it will give you another dropdown screen. On this screen choose Mount Jackson**
 - b. **You may call Pastor Elfie at 540 604-4579. You will have to call the pastor if you do not register online.**
- 2) **Stay home if you are not feeling well.** It is recommended that you take your temperature before leaving home. If your temperature is above 100.4 degrees, please do not come to church,

and please seek medical attention. If one of your answers to your health questions changes between the time you register and the service, please stay home.

- 3) Wear a face-covering.** Everyone who comes into the church must wear a face covering for the whole time they are in the building. You are expected to provide your own face covering. There will be no exceptions. If you are not comfortable with this, please know that we will continue to broadcast the service into the parking lot as we have been doing.
- 4) Maintain social distancing.** We will use only the Social Hall entrance to the church. We will mark the sidewalk so that we keep six feet between people from different households. If you like, you may stay in your car until the line is clear. We will check you in at the door. We also will maintain six-foot intervals in the hallway. Ushers will guide you to your seats. Individuals in the same household (or those who are in frequent contact with non-family members) may sit together. Unrelated individuals will be seated at least six feet apart. To help with that, we are closing every other row of pews, as well as parts of the chair section. At the end of the service you will be asked to stay in your seat until you are guided by the ushers. We will leave through the street door, starting with the back rows. Individuals who need an accessible exit will be allowed to use the Social Hall door to leave the building. Collection plates and to-go Communion cups will be available at the back of the sanctuary. As you leave the building, please continue to be mindful of your social distance.
- 5) Other precautions.** The Bishop has asked us to remove all paper from the sanctuary, including Bibles, hymnals, prayer requests, etc. You are invited and encouraged to bring your own Bible. We will not have congregational singing. We do expect to have instrumental music and, on some occasions, soloists. We will only do Communion with the to-go cups. We will not have printed bulletins, but we will continue to distribute them via mail and email each week so that you can bring your own copy of the bulletin. Bathrooms will be open, but we will ask that occupancy be limited to one person at a time unless someone needs assistance.
- 6) Cleaning.** The church custodian and the Healthy Church Team have developed a plan for regular and thorough cleaning of the church. We will follow the best practices we can determine.