



Southminster Presbyterian Church's Plans for Operation During COVID 19

LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF

Christians have an obligation to care for people who are poor, sick, in prison, or strangers (Matthew 25: 34 – 46) and, in times of great crisis, the federal, state, and local governments are an important resource to help meet a community's needs.

In response to the coronavirus COVID-19, on June 2, 2020 Southminster Presbyterian Church (USA) session voted to adopt the guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health, and the Waukesha County Department of Health to prevent the spread of this virus so that we do not unintentionally harm our neighbors at home, at school, at work, or in our general community. While some individuals may be at low-risk for the disease, we must ensure we are not transmission vectors that bring the virus into a community where many are particularly vulnerable.

In particular, the elderly and those with preexisting conditions are the most susceptible to serious symptoms. Therefore, we encourage people to also review the CDC's recommendations for those at high risk, including limiting travel and public gatherings. While physically visiting and engaging with those at high risk can be more challenging, we encourage people to call, video chat, or write to their friends or loved ones who are quarantined so that, while they may need to be physically separated, they will not be alone.

PHASES OF WORSHIP



PHASE 1: Only Online and Outdoor Worship.

- Online worship link to worship service, worship resources, and fellowship time available at the SPC website: <http://www.southminsterchurch.org>.
- Occasional outdoor services TBA in the SPC parking lot at 10:00 AM. Online service will also be available. Everyone is asked to bring their own chairs and communion elements. (Additional chairs and prepackaged communion elements will be available.)
- Masks are mandatory except for children under 2 and for those who have health conditions that contraindicate masks. Social distancing of a minimum of six feet will be maintained. Bulletins and offering plates will be available at a "self-service" table.
- The church building will be closed. Restrooms will not be available except in the case of emergency. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the entrances of the church and the restrooms.
- Members will be encouraged to preregister for outdoor services so we can plan for adequate social distancing. Attendance will be taken to facilitate contact tracing, if needed.

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PHASE 2: Resume Indoor, In-Person Worship With Restrictions

- Continued online worship.
- Maximum number of participants in worship and small group gatherings—50.
- Masks with exceptions as noted.
- Social distancing by family groups as maintained by ushers. Children remain in church.
- Attendance will be taken for worship. A sign-in log will be available for other visitors to the church to help facilitate contact tracing if needed.
- Bulletins and offering collected by gloved ushers.
- Personal communion elements as in Phase 1.
- No singing.
- Non-contact passing of the peace.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the entrances of the church and each restroom. Only one person allowed in restrooms at a time, except for family members.
- Access to some areas of the church may be restricted to minimize the need for extra cleaning.
- No fellowship hour.

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PHASE 3: In-Person Worship and Meetings With Restrictions

- Continued Online Worship.
- Worship and gatherings of all sizes may resume.
- Participants encouraged to spread out in available space.
- Masks are voluntary.
- Continued no-touch alternatives for passing the peace and collecting offering.
- We follow public health recommendations regarding Communion.
- Fellowship hour and sharing of meals is still discouraged.
- The resumption of church school, adult education and youth activities will be determined by the session.
- Church staff will be working from home until Phase 3 except when it is necessary they be on the church campus to complete their required tasks.
- Weddings, funerals, and baptisms are allowed following the protocols (masks, social distancing and restricted numbers).
- All church meetings will be virtual until Phase 3. Any in-person gatherings on campus that are deemed necessary shall observe the basic protocols (masks, social distancing).

Additional Resources:

Milwaukee Presbytery: <https://www.pbymilwaukee.org/covid-19coronavirus-resources.html>

Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Wisconsin Dept. of Health <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.html>

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