

## **Reopening Shiloh**

We are all eager to get back to worshipping at church during this unprecedented time. Of course we also need to protect our most vulnerable people. Sanctuaries are ideal places for the coronavirus to spread, and the results could be catastrophic to our Shiloh family.

Therefore, multiple things will need to be done to protect our congregation, and to help insure that we do not have to close our church doors again. We have implemented the safety procedures recommended by the State of Indiana and the CDC. These procedures are in use by many churches in our area.

## **HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

Consider your health when deciding to attend church on Sunday morning. If you're sick, stay home and join us online! We ask that you take your temperature before leaving for church. You must be fever-free and without a cough for 72 hours before Sunday morning. CDC defines a fever of a temperature over 100.4 degrees. If you or your child are feeling sick with cough or fever do not attend.

Those 65 and older with underlying health issues are encouraged to not risk attending.

Those that are at greater risk due to underlying health issues are encouraged to not risk attending.

We encourage anyone who may feel uncomfortable in attending to remain at home.

We want you all to know what our worship service is going to be like so you can make a well informed decision as to whether or not you are ready to be a part of meeting together. This pandemic has affected all of us differently and we realize that, so we want everyone to know that this is a very personal decision and that the only right decision is the one you make for yourself.

**Things you can expect concerning our Sunday services at Shiloh during this unprecedented time**

- a) Continuing Facebook Live & Zoom meetings.
- b) Shortened services
- c) WE WILL BE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING per CDC RECOMMENDATIONS.
- d) In order to maintain the 6' social distancing, there will be no congregating at the back of church, in the aisles, or leaning over pews.
- e) Please use the restroom before leaving home to help reduce the need at church. Only use the restrooms at church if absolutely necessary.
- f) Maintain a minimum of 6' between family groups. This includes while seated, entering and exiting.
- g) Due to the size of our sanctuary, seating will take place using the outside aisles only. The center aisle is closed.
- h) Only every third pew is available for seating. The pews not available for seating are clearly taped off, and have puppets sitting in them.
- i) Pews are marked "in green" where seating is allowed. Maintain 6' minimum spacing between family groups.
- j) Seating will take place starting at the front, working our way to the back. Those arriving first will be seated toward the front.
- k) Exiting will be from the back rows first, working our way to the front.
- l) Offering plates will be placed at the rear of the sanctuary for you to deposit your offering in while you are entering or exiting.
- m) Communion will be by individual communion packages.

- n) There will be no Children's Church for now. We know it will be hard for younger children to understand and implement the needed social distancing, so we ask parents and grandparents to please keep children within arm's reach the entire time they are on church property.
- o) There will be no singing for now. Therefore, hymnals will not be used and there will be no need for bulletins.
- p) Hand sanitizers are located at the top of stairs on the ledge, on the table in the back of the sanctuary, and the restrooms. Please sanitize on the way in and the way out.
- q) Non-contact policy: No shaking hands, touching arms or shoulders, or hugging. 6' minimum social distancing should be maintained between family units. This includes inside and outside the church buildings. Please be friendly to all by using waves, thumbs-up and other visual signs.
- r) Masks are highly recommended. If you have your own mask, please bring it. Disposable masks will be made available to those that want one on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Please respect our guidelines and show grace to others, regardless of their decision on this matter.
- s) Due to the limited available seating in the sanctuary, if needed, we will be utilizing the Fellowship Hall (FH) as overflow seating. You will be able to watch and hear the service on the big screen TV in the FH. There will also be hand sanitizers, masks, offering plates and communion available in the FH.
- t) If you prefer to sit outside in the shelter house, you may watch the service on your own device using Facebook Live (under Ron Ellis) or Zoom meeting. If you wish to use Zoom meeting, the meeting ID will be 919 051 3074, and the password will be 232184.

## **In conclusion**

Remember we are responsible for not just ourselves, but for the entire congregation. We love and respect you all. Let's all do our best at being responsible and making all of us feel at ease in returning to church.

This too shall pass.