

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church

Welcome Back to In-Person Worship

Our Journey to Returning from a Season of Separation

In April, the Session of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church adopted a four-step plan to guide decision-making about our return to in-person activity at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Out of an abundance of caution, SHPC has consulted all the resources available for how to safely begin regathering for worship in our sanctuary, while honoring the directives provided by federal, state, and local government. This information is found as follows and will be made available in the Sunday bulletin and reinforced via signage posted throughout the facility.

Before and After Worship

- ❖ SHPC has engaged Gulf Professional Services (GPS) to ensure that the facility is thoroughly and properly cleaned and sanitized to CDC and health and hazard standards and beyond.
- ❖ There will be no time of fellowship either before or after the service.
- ❖ Pastors will not stand immediately out of the narthex, thereby avoiding the formation of a line.

Attending Worship

- ❖ Worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. in-person and simulcast by live-stream via YouTube and Facebook.
- ❖ SHPC welcomes all who desire to worship in person.
- ❖ If you are in a “high risk category” we ask you to stay home. Also, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please wait until you have been symptom free for at least 10 days before making plans to attend these services.
- ❖ Anyone developing a cough or other medical issue during the course of worship may leave the room or seek the assistance of an usher.

Navigating the Facility

- ❖ Masks are required while inside the facility as well as when entering or exiting. Please place your mask on your face as you exit your vehicle and come to the building. If you do not have a mask, please see an usher upon entering and you will be provided with a mask.
- ❖ Upon arrival, please enter the sanctuary through the Narthex, not any other entry point (other doors will be locked).

- ❖ When entering the sanctuary, an usher will be available to assist with locating a seat, ensuring filling in from front to back and maintaining social distancing while seated.

- ❖ Please refrain from personal contact with anyone other than a family member – no hugs or handshakes. Always maintain a distance of 6 feet from one another.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance and in various locations throughout the facility.
- ❖ The sanctuary can safely seat approximately 100 people with 6 feet distancing and 16 feet from worship leaders.

- ❖ Pews have been roped off to maintain a safe distance for the duration of worship. Please honor the barriers put in place. If your family needs more space to sit together, please ask an usher to assist you as we do have contingency plans for this situation.
- ❖ Upon entering, please fill in the available pews starting at the front, then filling in towards the back. This allows for minimal contact amongst worshipers.
- ❖ The balcony will be open for seating (ideally for families of 4 or more), again filling in from the front to the back.
- ❖ The Fellowship Hall will also be available for worship. Please enter and exit via the side door by the Sanctuary. Chairs will be set up with proper spacing and bulletins will be available in each chair. An usher will be available for assistance.
- ❖ Restrooms are available and will be limited in use to one person at a time. Each person is required to clean/sanitize after each use. Cleaning wipes will be available.
- ❖ Water fountains will not be in use. If you should need hydration, a limited supply of water bottles will be made available in the narthex.

Worship Modifications

- ❖ Please observe social distancing while inside the facility.
- ❖ Hymns and pew Bibles may safely be used since there will be a week between services.
- ❖ All singing in the service will be done by a cantor. We encourage you to follow along and meditate using the hymn settings found in the back of the service bulletin, but please do not sing along.
- ❖ The congregation will not engage in responsive or unison reading or in singing.
- ❖ Ritual of Friendship – visitors only will be asked to register their attendance. Pads will be placed on both ends of each pew utilized and pads will not be passed.

- ❖ An invitation to stand is indicated by an asterisk * preceding the service element.
- ❖ Children will remain in their pews with their families for the Children's Message. Children will remain in the pews with their families for the entirety of the service. There will be no separate Children's Church.
- ❖ Offering plates will be made available near the exits but will not be passed during the service.
- ❖ Pastors, cantors, organist and other musicians will not be required to wear a mask while leading their portions of the service but will be sufficiently distanced from each other and the congregation.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the service, ushers will be present in each aisle to dismiss those seated in a safe, orderly fashion (one pew at a time). Please exit the sanctuary through the exist closest to your pew:
 - The front half of the pews will exit through the side doors on either side of the pulpit and lectern.
 - The back half of the pews and the balcony will exit through the side doors in the Narthex.
- ❖ Pastors will not stand immediately out of the narthex, thereby avoiding the formation of a line.
- ❖ Please continue to observe social distancing while on campus. Designated baskets will be available to recycle your service bulletin if you choose not to keep it.

Music in Worship

We continue to monitor scientific research regarding the safety of singing in groups; research asserts that singing (and playing wind instruments) is very risky, since it energetically propels aerosolized droplets through the air, where they settle on surfaces and can be transmitted by touch, and through air currents, where they are inhaled by others. Therefore, when we move into Step 3 of our re-opening plan, we will continue to follow the protocols that have been in place in Step 2: we will not have singing (or playing of wind instruments) by groups of people, either by the congregation or by choirs or ensembles.

Because of the size and configuration of our chancel area and sanctuary, we cannot safely expand the numbers of singers or wind players in the choir area and thus, one singer (or more than one singer from the same household) will do all of the singing in worship. Though we will not be able to sing as a congregation, we will meditate on the songs being sung, remembering how it feels to sing aloud, and singing aloud in the safety of our homes.

We will continue to follow the protocols regarding worship leadership that we have followed in Step 2:

- Each worship leader operates in their own space, separated from others by at least 6', and not sharing a podium, microphone, or music stand with anyone else.
- Worship leaders are separated from the congregation by at least 16'.
- We limit the persons in chancel area to:
 - One or two pastors (one at the lectern and one at the Communion table or in the pulpit).
 - The singer (or singers from the same household) are positioned on the pulpit side, where they are not projecting directly into the space of a pastor.

- Organist
- Instrumentalist (playing a non-wind instrument)

We will, of course, monitor the continuing research, and modify our practices accordingly.

Communion

- ❖ Communion will not be celebrated during our in-person worship at this time.
- ❖ We will however continue to celebrate communion during special on-line services.

Vespers

- ❖ Because of the possibility of larger crowds for special events and to include those who are not comfortable worshiping inside, we will continue Sunday Evening Vespers services outside twice per month.