



Mt. Olive Church and Preschool Worshiping Together in Sanctuary: Our COVID-19 Response

July 2020

(Updated October 2020)

In accordance with CDC guidelines and the Governor's required minimum requirements to reopen, the following highlights Mt. Olive's plan of action to maintain a safe and healthy church environment while worshiping in the Sanctuary. The church will continue to offer online and outdoor worship opportunities. The information below is intended to help families know what measures are being taken, if they choose to worship in the Sanctuary.

Guidelines for staff, volunteers and worshipers

- Face coverings are required for anyone 10 years of age or older. If an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to underlying health or other issues, we ask they worship with us online or at our outdoor service only. There will be times during the service in which people officiating or taking a formal part in the service will remove their mask temporarily (e.g., only Pastor Meyer, Jason Wallingsford, Karen Harris, etc.). Members should leave their mask on for the duration of the service.
- Members and guests attending service should plan to arrive no earlier than 10:15 am.
- Members and guests in any at-risk category, as defined by the CDC, are encouraged to talk with their Healthcare providers if they are concerned about attending to assess their risk and to determine if they should seek alternate opportunities.
- Temperature checks will be completed by the worship lead for staff and volunteers upon arrival.
- If you are not feeling well, have a temperature, have a compromised immune system, or simply not ready to worship in person, please stay home and worship with us online.
- Singing and spoken responses will be part of the service.
- If you attend service and you test positive for COVID-19, we highly encourage you to report this information to church staff so contact training information may be shared. **NO** identifying personal information (e.g., name) will be shared; however, appropriate notification may be made to indicate someone who attend service on a particular Sunday tested positive so they can monitor for symptoms in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Church Sanitation

- The church, including the Sanctuary, will be thoroughly cleaned on a routine basis.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church.
- All items in the sanctuary pews (e.g., hymnals, pencils, envelopes, tissues, black books, etc.) have been removed.
- We respectfully ask that you properly dispose of any trash after service to minimize our ushers from touching such items (e.g., used tissues, order of service, food and beverages, etc.).

Social Distancing

- Members and guests will be asked to physical distance and sit in pews accordingly. Select pews will be reserved to minimize airborne exposure from members of the choir as they sing.
- Doors will be propped open as people arrive and exit, or ushers will open the doors for them if the service has begun. During services, ushers will open the doors leading out of the sanctuary.
- If it is determined that the Sanctuary is exceeding capacity for proper social distancing, the church will reassess and may establish an alternate seating location in the Fellowship Hall.

Handouts

- The order of service will be available on a one-page document that people may use; however, we encourage members and guest to utilize the screens, when possible.
- The Olive Branch will continue to be distributed electronically.

Offerings

- The wooden church box will be placed on a table in the Narthex for collections.

Communion

- Communion will be offered using the prepackaged wafers and grape juice or wine.

Choir/Praise Team

- The praise team will be reduced in size, but will be providing music throughout the service.

Education Hour

- No education hour or youth meetings will be offered until further notice.

KREW and Nursery

- No nursery and KREW will be provided.
- Activity bags have been removed so we encourage members and guests to bring activities from home if this is warranted for your child(ren).

Special Events

- Small groups of no more than 15 people with a faith-based purpose may meet in the Fellowship Hall. Larger groups or groups with other purposes remain cancelled until further notice.

Worship Leads and Usher Teams

- Worship leads and ushers have been contacted about their ability/desire to continue serving at this time. Those that continue to serve will be trained on all new protocols and responsibilities as we move forward.

Food and Beverage

- No food or beverages will be served at this time unless prepackaged (e.g., no donuts/pastries or coffee before service).
- Water fountains will not be operational.