

Dear Front Street Family,

I am happy to share with you that since the Governor has moved us into Phase 3, we will be resuming in-person worship on Sunday, October 11.

As you may remember, we had a COVID Task Force that did great planning work for us back in the late spring. They came up with guidelines for us that will help us moving forward. (Who knew it would be this long before we could put those guidelines into use!) As we prepare to return to the church building, I want share some of those measures with you again.

Let me begin by saying, we know many of you will be excited to return to in-person worship, while others will want to continue with the online option. We want to assure you that we will continue to stream worship online. As we have done for the past number of months, you may continue to go to the church's website ( [frontstreetumc.org](http://frontstreetumc.org) ), and click on the "Worship @ Home" graphic. It will guide you to the video of the worship service.

The following are the plans we will have in place as we gather in the Sanctuary for worship beginning on October 11. As you may remember, the COVID Task Force arrived at these measures with input from the congregation, and they are designed to help us preserve the health of the congregation. This will hopefully allow us to maintain in-person worship.

- We will begin with one service in the sanctuary at 11:00am. Once we are able to get a better handle on the number of people who actually attend in-person worship, we will be able to better evaluate the need for more than one service. But we thought it best to begin simply.
- In order to help minimize contact time, and possible unintended transmission of the virus, we will keep worship to about 45 minutes or so.
- If you have a temperature, do not feel well, have a cough or cold, or if you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, we ask, respectfully, that you please stay home and watch the service online. We look forward to seeing you in-person when you feel better.
- Please enter the building through the doors of the Sanctuary narthex or the portico entrance near the church office. Those are the only doors that will be unlocked. This is an effort to have orderly traffic into, and out of, the building so as to help maintain physical distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed in strategic places throughout the building. The first places you will find it will be inside the doors of the Sanctuary narthex and the portico entrance near the office. Extra masks will be there, too.
- You are asked to wear a mask for the full duration of the service. Also, please wear them when walking throughout the building. We will have extra masks available for those who forget to bring one.
- We will have bulletins. Ushers/Greeters wearing gloves will pass them out as people enter the worship space.
- Everyone is asked to enter the Sanctuary through the Narthex doors.

- Spacing in the pews between family units will be 6 feet; and, we will utilize every other pew. (That means that some people may not be able to sit in their usual pew. But be assured, the Holy Spirit will find you in your new spot.)
- Because this coronavirus is spread mainly in aerosol form, the congregation will be asked not to sing. We have removed the hymnals, etc., from the pews to discourage cross-contamination. However, we will print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin so that we can all read the meaningful words while the music is played. Perhaps we will gain a new appreciation for the theology contained in our hymns as we read them with new eyes.
- It will probably be a while before we will have a choir. However, our music leadership is working toward having soloists or duets.
- There will be no children's sermon during worship, so as to avoid the close grouping of the children.
- Offering plates will be placed at the doors from the Narthex into the sanctuary so that our gifts and tithes may be placed in them upon entering or leaving.
- We will enter and leave the Sanctuary through the Narthex doors. The Ushers will dismiss us by rows at the end of the service to help avoid a mass of people in the aisle.
- There will be no fellowship time, nor a receiving line at the Sanctuary door, following the service.
- As we resume in-person worship, there will be no nursery. Families are invited to bring their children to worship. If there becomes a great need for a nursery, we will re-visit that decision, keeping in mind the challenges with spacing issues and sanitizing toys, etc.
- We will resume celebrating Holy Communion on the first Sunday of November. We believe we have come up with a method that involves the least contact possible.

This is the starting point in our plan. Be assured that we will be constantly assessing and evaluating the whole situation; and, making improvements or changes as needed.

We are grateful for everyone's patience as we have fasted from in-person worship. And now, we ask for your continued prayers as we enter this holy time anew. Some of our returning experience will look a bit different, however, the Lord promises to meet us whenever we gather in his name. So, whether in-person or online, we give thanks for the opportunity to gather as a congregation and worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the COVID Task Force, the Church Staff, and Pastor Patrick,  
I wish you God's blessings,

Pastor Ross