



From: Rev. Dr. Robin Dugall, Pastor

To: All the members and friends of Our Savior's in McCall, Idaho

Date: Monday, July 6th, 2020

Regarding: Continuing our Worship together in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

Friends in Jesus,

Thank you for giving your full attention to this email/letter. These directives and protocols have been developed by the leadership of our congregation for YOU and YOUR safety as we continue to work our way through the COVID-19 crisis. We ask you as lovingly as possible to abide by the directives/protocols that are articulated above.

I have been so delighted at the participation in worship as we have returned to having LIVE worship experiences in our building since May 31st. We have had roughly 35 people at the services...they have abided by our request to social distance as well as worn face masks as was required. Thank you all who have attended worship and demonstrated your desire to love others by sharing in our protocols and directives. We did move into a time where the wearing of face masks was recommended but on July 5th, in the aftermath of the City of McCall's Emergency Health Order making the wearing of masks mandatory for all public gatherings, we have returned to the requiring of masks in worship for the foreseeable future. When the Health Safety Order is lifted, we will be reevaluating that aspect of our Health Safety protocols.

We continue to acknowledge two realities - the virus is a real thing that is being actively spread throughout Long Valley. And Jesus is still calling us to love each other preferentially...to "*prefer one another in love*" as the Apostle Paul writes in Romans. Or as Paul writes in another letter, "*put yourself aside and help others...don't be obsessed with getting your own way.*" In addition, as I promised, we are monitoring the infection rate of our county and town daily and continuing to seek the advice and counsel from civic and medical leaders.

I would like to remind you, even as we make some alterations in our health safety protocols that we will continue to encourage each other to:

LOVE and ACCEPTANCE and PATIENCE and KINDNESS with each other.

Things are going to continue to be different for a while. These protocols and directives give us just a snapshot of how that will be true at our church facility. We all have to have this attitude about ourselves, as Paul says in Philippians 2:5-11, "the attitude of Christ...who emptied himself for our behalf..."

PS – You should be aware of our growing online presence and "attendance" during this crisis. Many of you who are reading this letter have chosen to stay home on Sundays...I completely affirm your choice and are proud of you for caring for your health with diligence during these trying times. We are averaging over 150 "participants" in either our Live Streaming Worship experiences OR the pre-recorded worship times. That's praise worthy!

Sincerely in the love of Jesus,

Robin Dugall, Pastor

rdugall@apu.edu

208.891-4608

Rubrics and Directives for OSLC as of July 6th, 2020

As you consider attending worship in the following weeks:

1. ANYONE who doesn't feel well, *I encourage you* - please stay home.
2. I am personally encouraging the most "vulnerable" (those who know that they are health compromised in any way) to stay at home until they feel safe to return to large gatherings.
3. I am continuing to produce weekly online worship experiences for those who do choose to stay home for any reason. Those worship services will be announced, and "links" will be made accessible via email and our church's website. The pre-recorded worship services can be viewed at any time. In addition, we will be *Live streaming the 11am worship service at OSLC*.
4. We occasionally have "tech issues" with our LIVE STREAMING due to weather conditions, etc. IF there is a week where you cannot access the LIVE STREAM of the worship service, know that you can watch the pre-recorded version on my YouTube channel or our oslcmmccall.com website (Worship experiences page).
5. Hopefully, the information regarding our health and safety directives/protocols will answer questions, reduce fear and give everyone direction. Any and all questions can be addressed to me personally: rdugall@apu.edu.
6. Bring your own coffee in travel cups, Bibles, water bottles, etc. We will not have the kitchen open or treats/coffee/tea other beverages available for a few weeks.

Directive #1 - Social Distancing:

CDC guidelines – 6 feet apart in our public gatherings.

Social Distancing in our entrance/exits:

- Our entrance into the sanctuary will occur through the main doors. Exit from the worship service will be through the side doors. We will continue to have a ONE-WAY flow of people in and out of the facility.
- We will have signs to provide visual guidance on how to enter/exit the facility.
- Greeters will encourage you NOT to stay in the entry ways, hallways, or lobby of the church building but to make your way into the sanctuary for seating. Bulletins will NOT be distributed by Greeters/Ushers but rather will be available on a table for you to pick up on your own.

Social Distancing in the sanctuary:

- The chairs in the sanctuary have been moved in order to facilitate and maintain a six-foot distance. (the tables have also been removed). Current CDC guidelines state that family groups/couples can sit together...so seats may be moved to accommodate that need. Normal seating spacing will resume this fall.
- You might want to come a bit early so that we don't have "congestion" at the entry ways.
- We will NOT have the "greeting time" that we normally have at the beginning of the worship service. People will be encouraged not to shake hands, hug, etc.

Social Distancing and Health Directives at our Outdoor Services:

- Bring your own lawn chair so that we can minimize contact spread of infection.
- We will continue to encourage social distancing.
- The wearing of face masks is NOT required at outside gatherings though we do recommend that you wear a mask.
- We will not be having our "normal" picnics after our outdoor worship experiences at this time. We will continually reevaluate that decision given the infection statistics within our area.

During worship:

- No Offering plates will be passed. The offering plates will be on a table at the exit from the sanctuary.
- When we celebrate Holy Communion, it will be distributed via “continuous communion practice”...that being, people will file by me and a communion assistant (or two) who will wear gloves and masks. NO common cup will be allowed until further notice.
- Readings and Worship leadership at the beginning of the service will be done by ONE individual. In addition, ONE Elder/Leader of OSLC will assist Robin with communion every time there is a communion service.
- We will be having weekly outdoor worship services through the summer months of July and August as much as we possibly can (weather permitting).

Directive #2 - Health Precautions:

1. Hand Sanitizer will be available at the entry way. Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the facility.
2. We have turned off the water fountain at the entry way.
3. The kitchen is closed. It will be reopened later in the summer.
4. Though we moved into a phase where we were *RECOMMENDING* that people wear a mask, the City of McCall (on Thursday, July 2nd) instituted an EMERGENCY HEALTH ORDER making the wearing of masks at ANY AND ALL PUBLIC GATHERINGS MANDATORY. Extra masks are available at the entrance to our facility. Masks, though not mandatory at outdoor gatherings, will be *recommended* by not required of every participant in worship.
5. Restrooms are fully stocked with soap, paper towels, etc. For the first couple of weeks, the OSLC restrooms will limit the number of people in the restroom at any given time (recommended 1 – 2 at a time). Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available on a table outside of the restrooms. Disinfecting wipes will be available in the restrooms, so that those who use the restrooms, can wipe every surface that they touch.
6. We will not have adult education/children’s ministry time (10:00am) until the fall.

Summary of the Directives/Protocols for our Opening for Worship

Third Phase (through the remainder of the summer 2020):

- Social Distancing seating
- For Outdoor Worship experiences (July 12th, 26th, August 9th, 23rd, and September 13th, Masks will be recommended but not required
- Music and Worship Ministry continually reevaluated given the spread of the virus
- Coffee/tea/refreshments may return later in the summer
- Kitchen may open later in the summer
- Entry/Exit protocol
- Restroom occupancy restricted to 2 at a time
- Begin regular Outdoor Worship experiences

Fall 2020 – resume “normal” ministry seating, entry/exit, masks optional, kitchen open, normal ministry activities resume (including adult education/children’s ministry)