



PPC Worship "Update"

We pray this "update" finds you well and safe.

As we take a new step for our worship gatherings, we wanted to inform you of the changes that are coming **beginning on Sunday, June 28.**

In order for us to "move ahead" in our desire to "come together for worship" - it is important for everyone to abide by these guidelines. Please review and share this info with your family.

Please understand that the situation in our nation right now is a "fluid one." Guidelines and recommendations continue to be subject to change as more is learned about the virus and as the spread of the virus fluctuates. These "guidelines" recommended by the Session at this time are not permanent and are subject to change as the situation changes.

So, Here's What You Need To Know With The Changes for Worship ...

Our Worship "Videos" Will Continue

- ✓ **Our Sunday Morning Worship Service will continue to be available live** on "Facebook Live" and will be posted online both on PPC's "Facebook Page" and on PPC's "YouTube" Channel.
- ✓ If you are not able to be in the sanctuary for worship or if you feel more comfortable not being in the sanctuary or if you are not able to worship on Sunday morning - the "videos" will continue to be available. *It is okay to worship in the way and the place with which you are most comfortable at this time!*

We Are Changing From "Drive In Worship" to "Outdoor Worship"

We encourage you to stay at home

- if you are or feel that you are at risk.
- if you are exhibiting any of the symptoms of the COVID-19 virus
- if you have known exposure to the virus in the previous 14 days.

- *For those who would like to have the option of bringing your own chair for worship and being outside of your vehicle, we will have an area near the parking spaces behind the Church Office building designated for "chairs."*

- If you are "bringing a chair" we would ask that you do not park in the lot for "Drive In" - you may park beside Westminster Center or on West Pleasant Street.
- We ask that everyone continues observing "safe distancing"- even outdoors.
- There will be no fellowship times presently – no food or beverage will be served.
- There will be no "paper" bulletins at this time. However, we will continue having the worship bulletin available on PPC's Facebook page. We can also email you a copy of the bulletin so you can print your own if you want. We ask that if you bring a paper copy for worship that you take it with you when you leave.
- When we celebrate the Lord's Supper - you are asked to "bring your own elements" (for the time being) - we will not be passing the "bread" and "cup" to each other.
- Following the "Interim Guidance" from the CDC, "masks" are encouraged, but not mandatory. This will be up to each individual to decide with what they are most comfortable. Masks should be taken with you when you leave.
- We will be able to "sing" outdoors - as long as we do not "sing at someone" and remain "safely distanced."
- Offering will not be collected during worship. You are encouraged to continue giving by mail, by "dropping" it in the mailbox or "new" opportunities for "online giving."

In Case of Inclement Weather (rain or heat) -
We can move "into the sanctuary"

We encourage you to stay at home

- if you are or feel that you are at risk.
- if you are exhibiting any of the symptoms of the COVID-19 virus
- if you have known exposure to the virus in the previous 14 days.

- Since we would be in a more "enclosed space," the guidelines are a bit different than if we are outside.
- Any decision of whether we are moving "into the sanctuary" will be made no later than Saturday - information will be posted on PPC's Facebook Page as well as via contacts from our "Network Contacts."
- Maintain physical distancing inside the building (at least 6 ft. apart). Let's replace handshakes and hugs with smiles and waves.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available near the entrances in Parry Hall - we ask that you sanitize your hands as you enter and as you leave.
- Interior doors will be open - to limit touching of the door handles as much as possible.
- Exterior doors will also remain open as much as possible - to limit the touching of the door handles

- The sanctuary seating will be marked to indicate a safe seating pattern and chairs will be set up in Parry Hall in a safe pattern. (Maintaining a minimum 6ft. distance). Families will be able to sit together. If you came to worship with another person, you can sit with that person.
- No fellowship times for the time being – no food or beverage will be served.
- There will be no "paper" bulletins at this time. However, the worship service will be projected on the screens in the sanctuary for you to follow. We will also continue having the worship bulletin available on PPC's Facebook page. We can also email you a copy of the bulletin so you can print your own if you want. We ask that if you bring a paper copy for worship that you take it with you when you leave.
- Bibles and Hymnbooks will be removed from the pews. Please feel free to bring your own Bible if you want, however.
- When we celebrate the Lord's Supper - you are asked to "bring your own elements" (for the time being) - we will not be passing the "bread" and "cup" to each other
- Following the "Interim Guidance" from the CDC, "masks" are encouraged, but not mandatory. Masks will be available upon request. This will be up to each individual to decide with what they are most comfortable. Masks should be taken with you as you leave.
- At the present time there will be no congregational singing (indoors) as singing is among the riskier behaviors when it comes to spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.
- Offering plates will not be passed, they will be placed on stands so that gifts may be dropped in upon entering or leaving. You are encouraged to continue giving by mail, by "dropping" it in the mailbox or "new" opportunities for "online giving."
- At the end of service we ask that everyone remains seated until an usher dismisses you. We ask that you immediately exit the building and refrain from congregating inside.
- Signs will be posted at each of the entry points to "remind" us of the "guidelines" we are following at this time.

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These changes are temporary, and we appreciate your cooperation as we attempt to abide by the recommended guidelines in keeping your family safe and healthy.

The Session continues to prayerfully, compassionately and carefully make decisions that are deemed to be best for the whole church community as we navigate our way through a time in which none of us have ever found ourselves before.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Session, the Church Office or Pastor Dave.

God's Blessings,

*The Session of the Portage Presbyterian Church*