

Reopening IPC

It is the desire of the Session of IPC to return to in-person worship and to a complete reopening of the church, as soon as possible. However, the safety of the congregation is our priority and no reopening will be approved until the safety of everyone is ensured, to the best of our ability.

Even then, the session will require these general precautions to be taken:

- Anyone with preexisting health conditions, or anyone exhibiting signs of illness, will be asked to stay home.
- The IPC Bus will not pick-up people for worship until approval is given by Session.
- Six-foot physical distancing will be practiced by everyone who does not live in the same household.
- Hand sanitizers will be located at entrances and various points in the church. People will be asked to bring their own hand sanitizers if possible.
- Bathrooms on the first floor will be open and sanitized before and after church but people cannot assume they will be cleaned after every use. Therefore, individuals should bring their own hand sanitizer and wash their hands thoroughly after using the bathroom.
- Masks will be required, except for those in speaking and singing roles, as long as they practice extra-distancing.
- Coffee and refreshments will not be served until approved by session.
- Orders from the Governor's Office and the Mayor's Office will be followed.
- People will be asked to enter and exit the church from the south doors unless the elevator is needed. People will be urged not to congregate in hallways.
- Greeters/Attendants will be located at various points outside and inside the church to give instructions and directions.
- The nursery and Sunday Schools will not be available until approved by session.
- Following worship, attendees will be dismissed by rows so that distancing can be maintained.

Other precautions for worship are detailed in the worship plans below:

Timeline for Reopening

Sunday, July 19 – Live stream at 10 a.m.

- A 10 a.m. in-person worship service will be held.
- A 11:15 a.m. in-person worship service will be held if needed.
- Reservations must be made by calling the church at 317-356-7225. When the 10 a.m. service is full, people will be assigned to the 11:15 a.m. service.

Worship Practices

- Due to restrictions of how many people can be seated safely in the sanctuary, reservations will be required to attend worship. (See **Sanctuary Capacity** note.) People may make reservations by email or by calling the church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday - Friday.
- Those who arrive for worship without reservation will be invited to watch the service in overflow spaces provided in the Fellowship Hall or the Parlor. If those places become full, people will need to return to their homes and watch the service online.
- Physical distancing of at least six-feet will be practiced at all times.

- Seating will be staggered on a basis of every other pew. Congregants will be asked to not sit on the aisle seats but to utilize the middle seats of the pew.
- Passing of the Peace will be practiced by bowing or offering other non-touching practices.
- In the beginning phases of our return, Bibles, Hymnals and Pew Pads will be removed from the pews to prevent the passing of germs.
- Pre-recorded hymns will be offered.
- Offering plates will be placed at the entryways of the sanctuary but will not be passed.
- Sacred Space will be offered but children will be asked to remain with their parents in the pews. They will be permitted to stand in the pews with parent assistance. Following Sacred Space children will remain with their parents.
- Following the Postlude, the congregation will be dismissed, row by row, by ushers. The ministers will remain in the Chancel until the sanctuary is emptied. Attendees are asked to keep physical distancing until they reach their cars.

Sanctuary Capacity

- Sanctuary open to limited number of people as defined below:
Capacity of the sanctuary is 18 households (maximum of 66), and 4 households for the balcony (maximum of 24). For example, if every household has 2 people the maximum capacity would be a total of 44. If every household has 1 person, the maximum capacity would be a total of 22.