

REVISED Guidelines
for Worship at Hickory United EPC

Until there is a change in the CDC guidelines, ALL who enter into the church are required to wear face masks and practice 6 feet social distancing. We will continue to worship on Sunday mornings with our first service (Praise and Worship format) beginning at 8:30 a.m. and our second service (Traditional format) beginning at 11:00 a.m. Presently, two Adult Sunday school classes are being offered and begin at 9:45 a.m. Patty Hamilton is leading a class in the Fellowship Hall (below the sanctuary) and Ron Stewart is leading the second class (located in the Choir Room on the second floor.)

GUIDELINES FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY

1. Prior to entering the church, you will be asked '*Are you experiencing 'flu-like' symptoms or have recently been exposed to someone with 'flu-like symptoms?'* **If you can answer 'yes' to either of these questions, we ask that you please return home and do not enter the building. If your symptoms worsen, please seek medical evaluation.**

2. All who enter the church must wear a mask at all times.

3. When you enter the 'welcoming area', we ask that you practice six feet social distancing. We also ask that you **refrain from handshaking and hugging. The coffee bar is closed until further notice.**

5. Please apply hand sanitizer to your hands prior to entering the sanctuary. Dispensers are located in the welcoming area for your convenience.

6. An offering plate has been placed on a table at the entrance of the sanctuary for your offering/tithe to lessen physical contact.

7. Upon entering the sanctuary, an usher will lead you forward to your pew seat. We are filling the sanctuary from the front to the back. Couples and families may sit together. Every other pew is closed.

8. Worship services are now paperless. Therefore, there will be no bulletins. All Scripture readings and musical lyrics are displayed on the front screens.

9. At the conclusion of the worship service, the ushers will methodically excuse worshippers beginning with the people in the back rows first and then moving to the front of the sanctuary until all have been excused. Please maintain social distancing as you leave. Please do not congregate in the welcoming area.

10. Please use hand sanitizer on your way out of the welcoming area.

11. If you have used a hymnal or a pew Bible during the worship service, please place them on the pew so we may sanitize them before the next service.

Additional considerations:

1. Children's church (ages three and up) is now located in the Covenant Center (gymnasium) beginning at 9:45 a.m. Please enter the main doors from the parking lot and follow the directional wall signs which will lead you either to the stairwell or to the elevator down to the Covenant Center. The outside Covenant Center doors are locked at all times.

2. Choir has been placed on hold until the 6' social distancing is lifted.

3. Restrooms are open for your use.

We know that this has been a most trying and challenging time for everyone. Thank you very much for your patience, grace, cooperation and desire to protect everyone you meet by following the guidelines.

Blessings, Pastor Dan