

Unity of Bandon Recommendations for a Safe Return to Church

At a meeting of the Board on 6-14-20, it was determined that we will not be reopening Unity of Bandon for the foreseeable future. While we all desire to resume regular activities, the safety of our congregation, many of whom are in high-risk groups, is of the utmost importance. As conditions change, we will reassess our decision.

We have reviewed recommendations from the CDC, various church organizations, and most importantly recommendations from our church liability insurance company. There needs to be a minimum of 14 days of decline in the infection rate in our state with testing readily available before re-opening can be considered. Maintaining the recommended six foot physical distancing requires a minimum of 113 square feet per person when exposure is over five minutes. This means that only 13 people (which includes minister and support staff) could safely attend services on any given Sunday.

In addition, it was determined that the following protocols must be in place:

-If you are sneezing, coughing, not feeling well, or have been exposed to anyone who has been sick, we ask that you remain at home; likewise, if you have a compromised immune system and are considered “at risk.”

-Temperature will be scanned prior to entrance.

-You will need to sign in to aid in contact tracing.

-Masks must be worn and will be available as needed.

-The building will be cleaned and sanitized after each use, using antiviral wipes or solution. It will be necessary to clean and disinfect the entire building, including things such as the piano, microphones, sound system, etc.

-The restrooms will need to be cleaned and sanitized after every use.

-Refrain from all physical contact, hugs, handshakes, etc.

-Doors will be propped open, weather permitting.

-Offering bowls/baskets will be placed at the doorways.

-No hymnals, bulletins, etc.

-Hospitality (food, snacks, coffee, tea, potlucks) will be suspended.

-Fellowship and conversation may continue in the parking lot, not in the classroom.

-Other activities will be suspended including: group singing, children's ministry, lending library, rental groups.

We know it's hard to be separated but we are truly all connected in heart and spirit!

Please consider joining in the Community Connection time on Zoom or attend Wednesday meditation (links to click on are in the weekly updates)– it is such a delight to see one another! And if you don't want to be seen, you can keep your video off and no one will know you are in your pajamas. 😊

If you are having difficulty accessing the livestream service on Facebook, it is always available on our website and will remain there for months.

Please reach out if you have a need – your Minister, Board, Prayer Chaplains, and Care Team are still here for you. ♥

Please share this information with anyone who might not be on our email or mailing list.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these recommendations, please contact Board President and COVID-19 Co-ordinator, Dorothy Tharsing at dtharsing@gmail.com or 541-290-8372

Many Blessings,
Reverend Robin