

Guidelines & Procedures

for the Restarting of Services at Petra



General Information

Public services will begin on the weekend of June 3-7.

We will offer our regular service times (Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 am) as well as two additional services on Wednesday (1:00 pm & 6:30 pm).

More services can be added if needed.

The first service of the week (Wednesday at 1:00 pm) will be designated for at-risk and the elderly; facemasks will be required.

Streaming will continue on both Facebook and YouTube; the new "Premiere" time will be Sunday morning at 9:00 am. The Wednesday evening service will be the service recorded.

We will ensure proper distancing and cleanliness to the best of our ability.

Encouragements

Those who personally have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (or have family members who do) should stay home. No guilt! Seek medical treatment if necessary, stay safe, and get well!

Those who are at high risk of serious illness are encouraged to stay home. No guilt! Join us on the stream at 9:00 am Sunday on either Facebook or YouTube.

Those who are uncomfortable attending services at this time are encouraged to stay home. No guilt! Stay well, stay safe, and join us on the stream at 9:00 am Sunday on either Facebook or YouTube.

Attendees are strongly encouraged to consider wearing a mask, but they are not required at the Wednesday evening (6:30 pm) and Sunday morning services. They are required at the Wednesday 1:00 pm service since it seeks to serve those at higher risk.

Everyone should practice distancing and good hygiene (washing hands regularly, covering coughs, staying home if sick).

Distancing

Every other pew will be closed, ensuring six feet of distance between individual members and families.

One household will be allowed per pew (or two with couples/individuals; with six feet between).

Households are required to register online (we're using SignUp Genius) to ensure that the appropriate number of people are in attendance for each service.

In order to comply with the 25% guidelines from the MN Department of Health, about 30 people will be permitted to attend each service.

Cleanliness

High contact surfaces (like pews and door handles) will be disinfected after every service.

A deeper cleaning will be done after each weekend.

The entryway will not be used, except for passing through.

The water fountains are disabled.

Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews for the time being.

Scripture and announcements will be shown on the screen as usual.

Those who want to follow along in Bibles and hymnals are encouraged to bring their own.

Service folders will be made available on tables in the entryway for visitors, not distributed by ushers. They will be discarded after one use, not reused.

Service folders for members will be placed in mailboxes as normal. We ask that they be taken home or discarded after the service. We will not be reusing them. A blue recycling bin will be available.

There will be no plate passing, hand-shaking, or hugs at this time.

An offering box is available in the entryway for offerings. If you would like to continue to mail in your offering you are welcome to do so. If you are using Simply Giving, please continue to do so and thank you!

Before and After the Service

Hand sanitizer will be available in various places throughout the facility. You are welcome to bring personal bottles if you desire.

There will be no hand shaking before the service and no formal greeters. Everyone is of course encouraged to say hello to friends and visitors!

The doors leading from the entryway to the sanctuary will remain open at all times.

Weather permitting, the front doors leading from the driveway to the entryway will remain open at all times.

Weather permitting, windows throughout the facility will also remain open.

Due to the bathroom remodeling, the basement is currently taped off.

Socially-distanced visiting will be permitted outdoors before and after the service. Members are asked to be careful not to block entrances and exits.

Pastor or other members will be present to answer questions from members and visitors.

Communion

For the first few weeks Pastor will continue to offer Private Communion for members who desire it.

We will restart in-service communion the week of June 17 & 21. Following that week, we will resume our normal pattern of Communion on the 1st and 3rd week.

Those who do not wish to commune or are not comfortable communing at this time are free to refrain. No shame!

The elements for Holy Communion will be prepared by a healthy individual wearing a mask and gloves.

Pastor will wash his hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer immediately before Distribution. He will distribute wearing gloves.

Households will be directed to approach the chancel one at a time to receive the Sacrament.

Communicants will take the wafer and individual cup off the napkin placed on the small table; this is the same procedure we've been using for Private Communion in church.

The common cup will not be used for a time.

Individual cups will be spaced out in the trays.

Other Items

Bible Class will continue online at this time. Pastor will be exploring a "live" option for either Facebook or Zoom.

Staff will seek to maintain cleanliness in the building as they work during the week.

Members who may wish to use the building are asked to first contact Pastor or the Council.

Baptisms and confirmations will continue to be done as needed with careful consideration given toward maintaining healthy practices.