



First United Methodist Church

A bright beacon of God's love to Irving and beyond.

www.fumcirving.org

Pastor Doug Fox 211 W. 3rd St Irving, TX 75061 972-253-3531

September 24, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of First United Methodist Church of Irving,

After more than six months, we are able to resume our in-person 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, October 4!** We will continue Facebook Live, YouTube, and Livestream live worship so that you will be able to choose what form of worship you are most comfortable with at this time. All of our internet-based worship service venues can be accessed on the front page of our website, www.fumcirving.org. We want to honor your personal decisions with regard to the Covid-19 virus as to when you feel comfortable returning to live worship. Because of this we will continue striving to produce a quality audio/visual streaming of our Sunday morning worship so that those at home and those in-person can participate in a meaningful Spirit-led service.

On Oct 4 we will be conducting a service of Holy Communion both in-person and via our streaming service. For those who will participate at home, you can provide your own bread and grape juice, or we will have ready-made packages that you pick up at the church during the week. We want to celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a community on Sunday morning whether you are at home or in-person!

As you consider attending in-person worship starting October 4, the following is a list of guidelines for how to plan to attend and what to expect on Sunday morning.

Guidelines for Attending In-Person Worship Starting on October 4

- 1) Attached is a document from the Texas Health and Human Services Department of State Health Services (DSHS), "Checklist for Worship/Worship Attendees." Please read this document for the basic guidelines regarding attending a worship service.
- 2) In addition to the DSHS guidelines, FUMC-Irving is requiring the following:
 - a) **Masks:** All worship attendees will be required to wear a mask when entering the building. A mask will be provided if needed.
 - b) **Temperature Check:** All worship attendees will have their temperature scanned. Persons with a temperature over 100 degrees will be sent home.
 - c) **Hand Sanitizer:** All worship attendees will be required to use hand sanitizer (provided or your own) upon entrance to the building.

3) Coming to Church:

- a) **Do not arrive prior to 10:00 AM for the 10:30 service.**
- b) Only two entrances will be used:
 - i) Glass office door next to 3rd St. circular drive
 - ii) Colonnade Door on the west side of the Sanctuary
- c) Place your mask on before exiting your vehicle.
- d) Practice 6-foot social distancing in the parking lot prior to entering the building.
- e) Use hand sanitizer (provided) upon entering.
- f) Go directly to the Sanctuary for seating. The temptation will be to socialize in the hallway. Please do not as this will prevent others from entering the building.
- g) Currently we will not be providing nursery, but feel free to bring your children into worship!

4) In the Sanctuary:

- a) The ushers will guide you to your seat. We will generally seat from the front to the back. Every other row is roped off for distancing. Do not remove the ropes.
- b) There are multiple bulletin sheets and one attendance sheet placed where seating is available. You may sit with your family or with one non-family member if you arrived with them.
- c) You may remove your mask once seated for comfort, but please put your mask on when conversing with others, even while maintaining 6-foot social distancing.
- d) The bulletin/prayer list is for you to take with you when service is over.
- e) Fill out the attendance sheet. **Write in the names of each person in attendance.** Please **leave the attendance sheet in the pew** upon leaving worship.

5) During Worship:

- a) We pray for a wonderful, spirit-led worship service as always.
- b) Please feel free to connect (from a distance) with others!
- c) Before singing or the reciting the Apostles' Creed, you will be asked to put your mask back on.
- d) Internet based worship will be active (Livestream, Facebook live and YouTube) so there will be occasional directions related to home worship during the service. Announcements, Singing, Prayers, and Preaching will be directed to both home and in-person worship attendees.
- e) Offering plates will *not* be passed during the worship service. Offering envelopes and baskets will be available upon exiting the worship service.

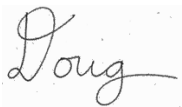
- f) Communion elements will be handed out at the beginning of the service. Holy Communion will be taken from your seat in the pews. We will not go toward the altar to receive the elements.
- 6) Restrooms:
- a) The restrooms in the main hallway and at the east side of the Sanctuary are open for your convenience. Please do not use any other restrooms in the building.
 - b) Please practice social distancing when entering/exiting.
- 7) Exiting Worship:
- a) Put on your facemask prior to exiting the pew.
 - b) Ushers will direct you on when to leave., starting with the back of the Sanctuary.
 - c) Please leave the attendance sheet in the pew (feel free to take the bulletin with you).
 - d) Offering baskets will be available on tables when exiting.
 - e) Please do not socialize in the hallways. Directly exit the building.

Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we begin to open our church for in-person worship services! At this time there will be **no in-person Sunday School classes or nursery available**. We anticipate that we will be able to offer Sunday School and nursery in the near future. We will also not be serving coffee or tea.

For now, we are looking forward to worshipping together in multiple ways, on-line and in-person. We believe that no matter where we may be physically, God will be present, Jesus will be lifted high, and the Holy Spirit will empower our worship.

I look forward to having you join us for worship, whether in-person or via internet this Sunday! If you have any questions, please feel to contact me by email (doug@fumcirving.org) or at the church at (972) 253-3531.

Blessings in the name of Christ!



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P.S. An updated Jeff Baker Memorial Bible Challenge bookmark is enclosed in this letter as well! If you need more, please let the church know or come by the church and pick one up!