



FEBRUARY 2021

Many in our family have already recovered from Covid-19, others have been vaccinated, and others are comfortable attending in-person with the guidelines set in place last November. Therefore, we believe the time is right to begin gathering once again at East Side on Sunday mornings. February 7 will be our first Sunday.

We will observe the same protocols as before. Here are those details:

WHAT TIME WILL THIS SERVICE BE?

Worship will begin at 9:00 a.m. It should last about an hour.

WHO SHOULD COME?

All are invited, but please use your discretion. Anyone who has had a temperature over 100 in the last 48 hours, who has knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 recently, or who is experiencing any sort of respiratory symptoms should PLEASE stay home for the sake of everyone else in attendance. Those who are in high risk categories and have not yet been vaccinated should strongly consider staying home and participating in our on-line worship as well. Do what you believe is best for you and your family at this time.

HOW WILL WE HONOR SOCIAL DISTANCING?

As you enter and exit the building, please remember to maintain 6' between other family units as much as possible. In the sanctuary, some rows of seats will be blocked off, and we ask that you leave at least 2 empty seats between family units. Please avoid congregating in the hallways or lobby where you might block the path of others.

WHAT ABOUT MASKS?

In order to comply with the City of Tulsa mask mandate and for the sake of your brothers and sisters, we ask that everyone age 10 and up please wear a mask to cover your nose and mouth.

WHAT ABOUT HUGS AND HANDSHAKES?

While some folks are absolutely LOVING the additional personal space these past months have offered...others are desperately missing human contact! We ALWAYS need to honor others' boundaries in terms of physical contact, whether or not in the midst of a pandemic. In order to comply with social distancing recommendations, we need to discourage hugs and handshakes at this time. Waves, salutes, tapping feet, elbow bumps and other creative greetings are safer alternatives.

HOW WILL WE HANDLE COMMUNION AND THE OFFERING?

Someone wearing a mask and gloves will hand you a communion packet prior to worship, or of course you are welcome to bring your own. There will be two collection boxes (one in the main lobby and one outside the side north door to the sanctuary) for you to place any cash or check contributions PRIOR to worship. Those boxes will be emptied and donations counted during the service (so please take care of donations as you enter the sanctuary). We strongly encourage you to continue to make your financial contributions on-line at <https://www.memorialdrive.org/donate> or use our text-to-give option.

WHAT ABOUT SINGING?

As you may have read in many articles, singing can produce a larger number of aerosol droplets, which can increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. We have chosen to limit our singing to the end of our worship time and then immediately dismiss in order to help mitigate that danger. This will allow us to enjoy the blessing of singing together while still limiting our exposure to any potential contaminants in the air. Of course, if you believe the risk is too high, you may exit prior to our time of singing.

WHAT ELSE?

Bible Hour In-A-Bag will be available for parents to pick up on their way into the sanctuary. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at various locations. Doors will be propped open as much as possible to avoid contact points. Water fountains are currently disabled, so please bring your own bottled water. In this one instance, we encourage you to follow the example of the Pharisees and meticulously wash your hands!

We will continue to monitor the situation in Tulsa and the surrounding communities and make adjustments as needed. We will be livestreaming on our Facebook and YouTube pages, which allows you to join us from home at 9:00 a.m. or watch later at your convenience. Thank you to ALL for your patience and understanding!