

REOPENING CHURCH GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

The following recommendations, guidelines, and policies have been approved as we return to in-person worship and meetings at Gibbon Faith United Church. These policies are made public to help everyone in our Faith United family better understand our plan and help make reopening as safe and comfortable for everyone we can. These policies are formulated to meet the requirements and recommendations of the State of Nebraska HHS, Two Rivers Public Health, Great Plains Conference, our District Superintendent, and our insurance provider – Brotherhood Mutual.

Everyone needs to make their own decisions about when they are comfortable returning to worship or other group activities. Please make the decisions that fit for you and your family. We want to be together, but only when you are comfortable. Online worship will continue to be offered, as will online options for those not ready to meet in person for committees. If you are considered “high risk” for getting very sick from this, please consider your health a much bigger priority than your presence. If you are feeling sick or have been around a known or possible COVID-19 infected person, please stay home. Any questions about these policies can be directed to the pastor.

REOPENING TIMELINE:

- 1) In-person worship resumes on Sunday, May 31 at 10:30am (Online continues to be offered)
- 2) No Saturday worship for at least 4 weeks after reopening due to the amount of required cleaning between services
- 3) Hispanic church limited to 1 service a week starting 1 week after us, Review monthly
- 4) Adult Sunday School on hold until we figure out worship flow and overflow, then in FH
- 5) No community groups other than WIC and other community aid groups
- 6) Committees follow Directed Health Measure limits and distancing practices. Only meet in Fellowship Hall

Note: Online options remain available for group or any individuals who want

- 7) Funerals follow same guidelines as our worship practices
- 8) Weddings – case by case basis, with social distancing as possible
- 9) All groups will currently be asked to meet only in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- 10) All groups using facility may be asked to help with cleaning after their activity is over

FACILITY:

- 1) Remove all bibles, hymnals
- 2) Mark pews for appropriate seating, DO NOT sit in the taped areas of the pews
- 3) Mark floors with 6 foot markers
- 4) Set up Fellowship Hall for overflow (tables 6 ft apart)
Please have 1 family per table or 2 single people on each end of a table
- 5) Close all classrooms to limit exposed spaces
- 6) Fellowship Hall dividers pulled until overflow needed

MASKS:

- 1) Wearing masks is **Strongly Encouraged** especially when entering/exiting
- 2) Masks are not required for soloists, preaching or speaking IF 12 or more feet from others
- 3) Masks will be required for ushers and greeters, acolytes and others when serving
- 4) Free masks will be available at the doors for those who may not have one

Approved by Administrative Council 5/13/2020

- 5) Masks are required to be worn if you participate in congregational singing
(RATIONALE: singing expels particles the same distance as coughing)

ENTERING/EXITING:

- 1) Ushers or greeters will open outside doors to avoid multiple people touching handles.
- 2) All Sanctuary doors will be propped open at all times
- 3) After worship rows will be "dismissed" by ushers back to front
- 4) Use of side doors encouraged to limit crowds
- 5) No Fellowship or coffee time before or after worship
- 6) All who wish to visit with friends please to do so outside before or after worship.
- 7) Hand sanitizer will be available in the entryway inside the main doors
- 8) Enter/exit only through the main doors (east and west double doors)

REVISED WORSHIP PRACTICES:

- 1) No Bulletins, no hymnals, everything is on screen
- 2) Ushers would record attendance, not individuals
- 3) Offering plate by 3 rear Sanctuary entrances
- 4) Only 1 Congregational song, only those masked can sing
- 5) No passing of the peace or greeting time.
- 6) No In-person communion in June (revisit in July)
- 7) No use of mic for Joys and Concerns (Pastor will try to summarize and repeat)
- 8) Kids remain with parents for Children's time/no treat, or treats handed out before by usher
- 9) No Choir at this time. Special music by single families or small group 12 ft distanced

CLEANING PRACTICES:

- 1) Facility must be cleaned and sanitized between every group using facility
- 2) Sanitize all high touch surfaces (pews*, door handles, switches, faucets)
*It's impossible to hit every single angle of the wood, and fabric has no good way to clean
- 3) Deep clean all bathrooms between every activity
- 4) Vacuuming only done with masks on and at least 48 hours after event
- 5) Create checklist of all cleaning needing done after each event in building
- 6) Will need volunteer help to clean this deeply this often!

ABSENCE PLANNING:

PASTOR: In the event that Pastor Mike and his family are asked to quarantine, the church is responsible for organizing and leading worship until they return. If Pastor Mike is healthy, he will record sermon. Kathy Pierce and Linda Keiper have volunteered to help with leading worship in this situation, but more assistance would be needed. Those who preach would be compensated as normal and Linda would be allowed to turn in hours as a Lay Minister for this work.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: If Gina's family is required to quarantine, any work she is not able to do from home (or is unable to do because of health) would need to be covered by volunteers. If needed, SPRC can hire temporary employees to cover needed tasks until Gina can return

CUSTODIAN: If Cindy is unable to perform her cleaning responsibilities, or is uncomfortable with the responsibility because of her health concerns, those tasks will need to be performed by volunteers. If needed, SPRC can hire temporary employees to cover needed tasks until Cindy returns.