

REOPENING CHURCH GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

The following recommendations, guidelines, and policies have been approved as we continue in-person worship and meetings at Gibbon Faith United Church. The original policies created in May 2020, and revised policies from August 2020 are available by request. These updated and simplified policies are public to help everyone in our Faith United family better understand our plan. Everyone needs to make their own decisions about when they are comfortable returning to worship or other group activities. Online worship will continue to be offered, as will online options for those not ready to meet in person for committees. 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.

BUILDING USAGE:

- 1) All groups/events can resume use of building, but must be "scheduled"
- 2) All groups using facility may be asked to help with cleaning after their activity is over

FACILITY SETUP:

- 1) Every other pew closed in half of for social distancing
- 2) Groups of up to 10 people allowed in each pews and 8 at tables in Fellowship Hall.
Individuals can choose to sit with friends/family if they want. Always your choice!
- 3) Fellowship Hall tables set up for overflow and fellowship time spaced 6 ft apart
- 4) Classrooms can be used, provided people socially distance as much as possible.

ENTERING/EXITING:

- 1) All Sanctuary doors will be propped open so people can enter/exit without touching handles
- 2) Hand sanitizer/ masks will be available in the entryway inside the main doors

REVISED WORSHIP PRACTICES:

- 1) Bulletins and hymnals allowed, but everything on screen
- 2) Ushers would record attendance, not individuals
- 3) No passing offering plates, will be located by 3 rear Sanctuary entrances
- 4) Passing of the peace done in place (no leaving pew, hugs, etc).
- 5) Optional communion with individual elements. Masks required for servers
- 6) No use of mic for Joys and Concerns (Pastor will try to summarize and repeat)
- 7) Children's time with option for kids to come forward.
- 8) Choir, praise team, special music allowed when masked or socially distanced (10 ft for singers)

MASKS:

- 1) Wearing masks is **Encouraged**, especially when entering/exiting, **REQUIRED** for singing
- 2) Masks are not required for soloists, preaching, or speaking IF 10 or more feet from others

MEALS/FELLOWSHIP TIME

- 1) Food will be served to people (no self-service)
- 2) Servers must wear masks, wash hands or sanitize regularly. Gloves optional

CLEANING PRACTICES:

- 1) Facility should be cleaned and sanitized regularly by groups using their space.
- 2) Cleaning checklist available for use, but does not have to be turned in
- 3) Bathrooms and Sanctuary sanitized twice weekly, Fellowship Hall after each use.

Worship/Fellowship server policies

If you agree to serve in these areas, please note these are the policies you are agreeing to follow until such time as it's deemed reasonable to discontinue:

Usher/Greeter

- 1) Masks are **required** for ushers/greeters, and encouraged for everyone. Once worship begins, you can remove your mask until you need to do a task that puts you "in" someone's 6ft space, or until congregational singing (when masks are required)
- 2) Sanitize your hands often.
- 3) Ushers/greeters will record attendance for EVERYONE. List every person in the family. If you don't know the person, ask, but ushers MUST write it down.
- 4) Bulletins will be handed out if people want. Sanitize before starting.
- 5) No offering plates passed. Leave money in plates for pastor or counter to pick up.

Scripture reader

- a) Can "unmask" for reading, but **should wear mask** when coming up/going back

Children's Time

- 1) Children's Time leader can "unmask" during their sermon, but **should wear mask** while coming up/ going back, as kids are seated, and dismissed.
- 2) Snacks can be handed out if: a) snacks are individually wrapped, b) you hand them the snack (i.e. they can't reach in and grab items).

Fellowship Time Snacks

- a) Servers must wear masks/wash hands before plating or serving food. Gloves optional.
- b) no self-service (i.e. dishing own food or drinks)
- c) Use of a serving line is allowed, people are encouraged to socially distance