



Mark your calendars for Worship on the Lawn! (*weather permitting*)

Sunday, July 12th at 9:30am

We last worshipped physically together on March 8th, which seems like an eternity ago for many of us. Yet, we continued to worship together online through the gifts and dedication of our skilled staff and worship team. Our Re-Entering Well Team has been working hard on a way to **safely** gather again. The time has arrived and we will begin by offering a beautiful outdoor worship experience on our church front lawn.

However, joining together in outdoor worship comes with a great responsibility for all of us – to keep those around us safe. We will be following the recommendations provided by our annual conference and the CDC.

We understand this experience will not be for all, and for those unable to attend, ***we will continue to live-stream the worship service to be viewed at home.***

Safety precautions you can expect and will be enforced for outdoor worship:

- **Masks will be required by all**, including those sitting in their cars with the windows open. The primary means of spreading the virus is through airborne water droplets, and wearing masks significantly reduces the risk. Even though outdoors reduces the risk, it does not eliminate it, so we will “err on the side of safety.” Whoever is speaking at the time on the worship team will remove their mask while speaking but will be well removed from everyone else.

- **Bring your own lawn chairs or a blanket for seating.** Areas will be marked that provide for proper social distancing.
- **Check-in will be required for contact tracing purposes.** Our annual conference is requiring us to assist the public contract tracing services in identifying who has attended each service, in the event that someone who has attended an outdoor worship service contracts the virus. This will be performed via drive-thru check-in stations located in the rear parking lot.
- **Physical Distancing will be required.** Since masks aren't 100% effective in filtering the airborne virus, safeguards will be in place to maintain physical distancing. The seating area will be clearly marked off. However, the responsibility to maintain distancing is ultimately yours.
- **There will be no choir or congregational singing.** I know, this is a real bummer. We all love worshipping God through music, and joining our voices in song. However, it has been found that forceful, sustained breathing, such as during singing, poses a greater danger of spreading the coronavirus than ordinary speaking at low volume. So you guessed it, we will err on the side of safety.
- **There will be no unison prayers or responses.** Similar to singing, we tend to project more when talking loudly. Also, in order to have unison prayers and responses, we would have to provide printed bulletins. We will avoid sharing materials that have been handled by multiple people.
- **Those most at risk should consider remaining at home and enjoy the live-stream of the service, or attend but remain in your car in the section of the parking lot that will be reserved for that purpose.**

Your leadership team has worked long and hard at this plan which we feel provides both a meaningful worship experience, while stressing protection of all. No matter where we gather, we are united as one under Christ and share a love for one another by that union.

On Behalf of the church Re-Entering Well Team,
Craig Lee
Church Council Chair