



Plan to Return to In-Person Worship

Hello dear friends!

After an extended separation due to COVID-19, Church of the Saviour plans to restart in-person worship on July 5, 2020. We hold together a fervent desire to see each other and worship together in-person, with the knowledge that COVID-19 is still present in our community and still presents a danger to our health and safety. With that in mind, a team of leaders put together this plan that allows us to return to in-person worship in as safe a manner as possible. I am grateful for their work and the cautious and careful way they have gone about planning for this.

We will use the following guidelines to gather together again. While Sunday morning will look different with these measures in place, we believe that we can find a balance between keeping everyone safe, especially the most vulnerable among us, and joyfully worshipping with each other in the flesh. We will also be fulfilling Jesus' commandment to "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." (John 13:34-35) We will take these measures and follow these guidelines out of love for each other. The last thing any of us wants would be for someone to get sick because they gathered with us for worship, and we did not take the necessary safety precautions to keep COVID-19 at bay as well as we can.

Jesus also teaches us the first and second greatest commandments – "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind...the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Matthew 22:37-38) We do this out of love for everyone in our communities who are not a part of Church of the Saviour, so that we do not unwittingly carry the virus from our worship gathering out into our communities. We believe that following these guidelines will keep the threat of COVID-19 minimal when we gather in-person. Please review them as you are able. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please reach out and contact me. My email address is saviourchurchpastor@gmail.com and my phone number is 513-330-4256.

Additionally, the sources used for this plan were "Return to Public Church Guidelines" from the West Ohio Conference; and "Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith" from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>), as well as the regular updates and recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health.

In Christ

Rev. Andy Burns



Before You Come

- We will have the church building professionally cleaned and disinfected before July 5. We will also regularly disinfect surfaces and high-touch areas (counters, doorknobs, etc.).
- We strongly encourage everybody to wear their own mask to worship. If you do not have a mask when you come, we will have a limited supply of masks to give you before you enter the building. However, as our supply is limited, we encourage everyone to bring your own masks to wear whenever you are in the building.
- We strongly encourage everyone to take your temperature and the temperature of everyone in your household before coming to the church building. If your temperature or that of anyone else in your household is greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, we ask that you stay home and worship with us in spirit, for the sake of your health and that of everyone else gathering for worship. If you do not have a thermometer at home, we will have equipment to take your temperature when you come to the building. However, if you arrive and your temperature is over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, we will ask you to worship with us in spirit from your home for the sake of your safety and that of everyone else gathering for worship.
- If you or anyone else in your home is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (Fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell), please stay home and worship with us in spirit for the sake of your and your household's health and that of everyone else gathering for worship.
- If you are at high-risk for COVID-19, we encourage you to stay home, worship with us in spirit, and help us figure out how to connect you with the life of the church. **We will continue to offer online/distance worship** even after we start gathering in-person. More information on that will be coming.

As You Enter

- Please enter the building through the door under the portico/awning, which will be **entrance-only**. The side door facing the parking lot will be **exit-only**.
- Please maintain six feet of distance between yourself and others, and please refrain from shaking hands or giving hugs. I know this will be difficult, but this is in the interest of



everyone's health and safety, so that we do not inadvertently spread the virus through physical touch.

- There will be hand sanitizer at the door when you come in – please use it when you enter.
- There will be no coffee or snacks provided before or after worship. However, you are welcome to bring your own beverage.
- The chairs in the sanctuary will be set in pairs with six feet of distance between each pair. If your household is larger than two people, you are welcome to move the chairs you need to connect with a pair, while still maintaining six feet of distance.

During/After Worship

- There will be no bulletins, announcement inserts, or handouts. We will also not use the hymnals.
- We will not be passing the offering plates during worship – we will have a collection plate at the back of the sanctuary in which to place your offering. Additionally, we can give online at <https://saviourumc.org/give/>.
- We will not be singing together. We will have music, and we can hum the tune behind a mask, but we will not be singing together. I know this will be difficult, but scientists have shown us that when we sing, we project droplets much further than six feet. Therefore, this is in the interest of everyone's health and safety, so that we do not inadvertently spread the virus through our singing.
- There will be no Passing of the Peace during worship.
- At the end of worship, there will be a staggered dismissal starting from the back of the sanctuary. This is so that we do not clog the hallway. If you wish to stay and be with each other longer, you are welcome to do that – just not inside the building. The shelter house will be open for anyone to gather (while staying six feet apart). We can also gather and connect under the portico; and we can always gather and connect by our cars.

Children's Ministry

- The Nursery and Sunday School Classrooms will remain closed through the month of July



- All children attending worship service will stay seated with their parents/family during worship
- Parents are permitted to bring snacks for their own children. Snacks cannot be shared outside of the family.
- The Children's Ministry team will provide busy boxes for each child to use/ play with during worship
- Busy Boxes may contain:
 - o Crayons
 - o Coloring /crossword puzzle/activity sheet
 - o Paper for drawing/note taking
 - o Small prepacked individually wrapped snack (juice box?? Or small water bottle??)
 - o Small toys that can be changed out for smaller kids
 - o Each box will be labeled with the individual child's name
- Each week one of the nursery teachers will direct the kids to pick up their box and show the kids where to drop them off before they exit so we can sanitize the exterior of the boxes and or small toys located inside the busy boxes.
- There will be Children's Moments during the sermon but the kids will remain seated with their family.