

## **PROTOCOLS FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURING COVID-19**

Westminster endorses all CDC, state and local government recommendations for individuals at high risk for COVID-19. Church members are strongly encouraged to take these guidelines into consideration and to exercise caution when deciding to attend outdoor worship at Westminster. While Westminster cannot guarantee that all will be perfectly safe from a medical standpoint, all reasonable efforts will be made to provide a safe worship environment.

### **Timeline**

Westminster will offer two outdoor worship services on Sunday, September 13, 2020, with the first service beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by a second service beginning at 6:00 p.m. Attendance at each service will be limited to one hundred (100) individuals.

### **Registration for attending the outdoor worship service**

The church will post online or send by email a notification to the congregation that members may sign up to attend the outdoor service and how to do that. Attendance will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, each person registering to attend the service will be asked to answer a list of CDC questions pertaining to their current COVID-19 status. Each member will be asked to verify on entering the day of the service that the answers to these COVID questions remain the same, that is, "No" as the answer to all the questions.

### **Arrival at the church**

Before leaving for the service, members should check their email or the church website for any last-minute updates. Weather will always be a factor. Remember to bring bottled water, if you think that it will be needed. No water will be available during the service. When members arrive at the church, signs will direct them to the location of that day's outdoor services. The first services will be held in the north parking lot.

Members are asked to park in the Mayfair lot, put on their masks on exiting their vehicles and bring a lawn chair for each person. If a member is unable to walk from the Mayfair lot to the site of the service, there will be a limited number of parking spaces available on the Wilson side of the north parking lot.

Members will find registration tables located at the Mayfair and Wilson sides of the north parking lot. Ushers will ensure that social distancing is maintained for those waiting to register. Members will be asked to sign in (for attendance and contact tracing purposes) and confirm that their answers to the CDC COVID questions continue to remain "No" in all cases. Hand sanitizer, gloves and extra masks will be available at the table.

Inside the church building the restrooms located directly across from the gymnasium on the ground floor will be available for use by those attending the service. If there is a line, please maintain the required social distance between members. The water fountain will not be available for use by the members. A custodian will be onsite to sanitize and disinfect the restroom after each use.

### **Seating for the service**

Masks must be worn by members throughout the entire service and only taken off, once the members have arrived back at their own vehicles.

Members of the Safety and Security Committee will be in the parking lot to ensure that members place their lawn chairs at least six feet away from any other chairs.

### **The worship service**

The service will be a bit unlike anything the church has ever done before. Because there will be no pre-printed bulletins available that day, members should print off the order of service at home and bring it with them, or find it on their phone after they arrive. A sound system will be used to ensure that all in the parking lot are able to hear the officiants and musicians. The service will last thirty or forty minutes. Following the Benediction, the members will be dismissed decently and in order. It will be different, but remember that it is a service of worship that is not aimed at our own comfort, but for the glory of God.

### **Leaving the service**

When leaving the service, interactions between/among members, even though they are outside, should involve the wearing of masks and proper social distancing. It is known that members will want to visit with friends, but some of the outdoor services may be scheduled back-to-back. If members attended the first service, it is asked that they be mindful of the time, so that others may find space in the Mayfair parking lot for the following service.