

UPDATED In-Person Gatherings: Minor Memorial UMC (8/23/20 updates)

Philippians 2:3-4 states, *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”*

Our In-Person Gathering Guidelines provide us with an opportunity to take all people and everyone’s health into consideration. **As followers of Jesus, we are always called to consider the other; we must resist the temptation to only think about ourselves.** We want to send the message: “Minor Memorial UMC cares about you!”

Date we will resume in-person worship: Sunday, August 23 @ 10:30 am

1. We WILL continue to offer online worship indefinitely. Please worship from home if you are ill, have a compromised immune system, have been exposed to someone with COVID within 2 weeks or if that is the better option for you and your family. **For many, online worship is the best option right now.** No one should feel guilty for worshipping from home.
2. IF you choose to attend worship in the sanctuary, you will be expected to follow these guidelines:
 - a. Any visiting with others needs to be done in the parking lot, courtyard or outdoors. The narthex, entrances and sanctuary aisles must be clear for others to enter and exit safely. Please refrain from hugs and handshakes. All areas of the church other than the narthex and sanctuary will be closed off.
 - b. As you enter the narthex, please sanitize your hands, pick up a mask (or bring your own), and proceed to find an open pew. Narthex bathrooms will be available if you need a restroom.
 - c. Masks are required. Please wear a mask at all times while in the building.
 - a. No food or drinks need to be brought into the church building.
 - b. Every other pew will be marked off. Family units need to sit at the end of an open pew. Children need to stay with their family. Please sit near the side or center aisle and do not ask to step over families.
 - c. Exiting the sanctuary will be done by rows to avoid a mass exodus. Please exit directly outside.
3. IF you choose to attend worship in the sanctuary, then realize things will be different:
 - a. Beginning August 23, there will be no congregational singing; hymns and specials will be solos or small groups.
 - b. We will not have paper bulletins; hymnals and Bible are not in the pews. Song words, announcements and readings will be on a screen. You are encouraged to bring your own Bible.
 - c. We have offering boxes in the back of the sanctuary or you may give online.
 - d. You are asked to remain in your pew for the entirety of worship unless it is an absolute emergency.
 - e. During the time of response, you will be invited to pray in your seat rather than come to the altar.
 - f. There will be no choir.
 - g. There will be no children’s church.
 - h. A combined infants/toddlers nursery will be available. Please do not bring toys, food, etc.
 - i. There will be no classes or small groups on Sunday mornings (see below).
4. Small Groups/Classes—We encourage small groups...in a responsible way!
 - a. Any small group/class is welcome to meet on the church property outside of Sunday morning in one of two locations: Room 202/204 in the Education Building or outside. The group leader needs to contact the church office to reserve space and to find out current number of people allowed.
 - b. Groups may also meet via Zoom or groups may choose to meet at a member’s home.
5. Fellowship Hall—Currently the only group allowed to use the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen is the After School Care. They are responsible for cleaning this space daily to meet their requirements.
6. Timeline—The MS Annual Conference of The UMC is now putting out weekly updates on best practices and we will update our guidelines as these best practices change.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation! Let’s all do our part to show care and love for one another.