

Reopening of the Sanctuary First UMC

The information below outlines the steps Wayne First UMC will be taking to provide an in-person worship service, while still following the guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State of Nebraska, and Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department. These steps are subject to change.

Before Arriving

Everyone who plans on attending in-person worship is strongly encouraged to take their temperature before leaving their home to ensure it is below 100.4 degrees.

You should remain at home if:

- You, or a member of your household, is experiencing or have experienced symptoms such as:
 - Cough
 - Fever of 100.4 degrees or above
 - Sore throat
 - Shortness of breath
 - Any other illness in the preceding 14 days
- You have been exposed to, or are residing with someone who has tested positive for, COVID-19 within the past 14 days
- You have traveled out of the country or to “hot spots” for COVID-19
- You are at a higher risk for severe illness
- You exhibit any other risk factors outlined by the CDC or state officials

Masks and Cloth Face Coverings will be required while you are in the church building. Per the CDC, masks should not be worn by children under age two, nor anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

There will not be Nursery or Fellowship Time, before or after worship. Sunday School will be available. Please see **Sunday School** section below for more details.

Entering the Church

To reduce the number of touch points throughout the church, entering and exiting the church will be limited to the north door by the Church Office. The door will be propped open to minimize the number of contacts on the door handles. The doors will be pulled shut by a volunteer when worship begins.

Hand sanitizer will available at the entrance of the church, as well as the entrance of the Sanctuary. Please take a moment to apply some hand sanitizer as you enter.

As you arrive, please do not congregate in groups in the hallways, Fellowship Area, or Sanctuary; rather, move directly into the Sanctuary and find your seat.

The Kitchen Area will be closed and not available before, during, or after worship.

The set of restrooms between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will be available before, during, and after worship. Drinking fountains will not be available.

All non-essential rooms and hallways will be closed and unavailable.

Entering the Sanctuary

The doors into the Sanctuary will be propped open and remain open during worship.

An Usher will assist all attendees in finding a seat upon entering the Sanctuary; ensuring that social distancing (six feet of separation between household groups) is maintained. Please do not congregate in groups in the Sanctuary.

Household groups of no more than eight people may sit together. Groups must sit six feet apart. The social distance of six feet applies to both left to right distance, as well as front to back. For example, please do not sit in a pew immediately behind someone else. The front row of pews (closest to the altar area) will be available only to singers and musicians serving that morning.

If a section or pew is roped off, please do not sit in that section or pew.

During Worship

No bulletins will be distributed at the church building. Bulletins will continue to be sent via email in advance. You may print them off and bring them to worship with you, but must take them home with you after worship. If you do not currently receive a copy of the bulletin email, and would like to receive it, please contact the church office.

All hymnals, song books, and Bibles will be removed from the Sanctuary and Fellowship Area. You may bring your own song book or Bible to worship, but we ask that you take it back home with you after worship. Attendance Pads will also be removed from the pews.

We will continue to Share the Love of Christ during worship, but from a distance. All will be asked to remain where they are in the Sanctuary to extend their greeting. There will be no hugs, handshakes, high fives, etc, outside of family groups.

For the safety and health of those in attendance, families who attend with children must keep the children sitting with the family and not have them congregate with others in the Sanctuary or church building.

We will not pass offering plates during worship. Instead, offering plates will be placed at the back of the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to place your offering in the plate as you exit worship. Electronic giving is also encouraged.

Children's Time will continue during worship, but children will be asked to remain in their seat and not come up to the altar area.

We will not share in congregational singing. However, we may still play music and have the Praise Band or a soloist perform. We may also use previously recorded music.

Exiting the Church

At the conclusion of worship, there will be a single exit from the Sanctuary. An Usher will dismiss attendees; exiting as household groups, keeping at least six feet between groups. This door will be propped open.

An Usher will begin dismissing groups from the south section of pews (by the Bell Choir tables), starting with the rear pews and working forward to the front pew of the south section. Next, an Usher will dismiss at the rear of the main Sanctuary area, starting at the back pews and working their way to the front pews. Please wait for the Usher to dismiss you.

After Worship

After you have left the Sanctuary, please do not return to the Sanctuary. If you have forgotten something, please let a volunteer or the Pastor know and we can retrieve it for you.

All surfaces that have been touched (door handles, light switches, pews, pulpit, restrooms, etc) will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes by volunteers after the Sanctuary is empty.

Sunday School (starting August 30)

At the conclusion of worship, there will be a socially distanced Sunday School for families in the Fellowship Hall. Families will participate together and children should remain with their families during Sunday School.

After Sunday School, families will be given a packet of materials to take home and share.

Additional information will be shared by Sunday School teachers.