

Guidelines for returning to “in-person” Worship Together

Beginning Sunday, June 21, 2020 - 10:00am

WHY ARE WE HOLDING SERVICES?

Based on the guidelines received from the State of New Jersey, churches are now able to reopen their doors using a “phase-in” approach.

Like a hospital, the Elders of Joy have been called to love, serve, and care for our broken and hurting members and neighbors. We have also been called to Worship Together.

Although we have been able to accomplish much of this through our live stream and other virtual events and activities, it is better to be able to meet in person as we worship, grow, celebrate and join together in person.

Despite all risks not being able to be eliminated with the return of in-person activities, the Elders of Joy have taken the highest degree of care and utilized the highest standards set forth as we begin Sunday morning in-person Worship Together.

During this first phase of implementation, the Elders emphasize that if your household is uncomfortable with these guidelines, no one should feel guilt or shame in continuing to stream services from home.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Pastor Mark: pastormark@joynj.org

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Attendees who are sick or feel ill should not enter as a precaution and watch the streaming service instead.

Out of love for our congregation and all of its members, we encourage all who may be vulnerable to consider not attending services during this first phase of opening. According to the CDC vulnerable includes any of the following:

- Those 65 years and older.
- Those who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.

- Those of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - Those with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma.
 - Those who have serious heart conditions.
 - Those with diabetes.
 - Those with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis.
 - Those with liver disease.
 - Those who are immunocompromised.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

GOOD HYGIENE & SOCIAL DISTANCING AWARENESS

1. Attendees should strive to maintain 6-foot social distancing at all times (*including during entry and exit from lobby or sanctuary*).
2. Attendees should thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after touching doors, pews, or other frequently used surfaces on campus.
3. Attendees should disinfect frequently used personal items and surfaces as much as possible.
4. Attendees will be required to wear face masks or medical face coverings before entering the lobby and sanctuary.
 - Face masks must be tight enough to capture/block any accidental sneezes or coughs, as well as prevent attendees from touching their mouths.
 - Taking off face coverings outside the building will be permitted as long as 6-foot social distancing protocols are implemented.
 - Attendees have the responsibility to each other to continue to practice social distancing.

Exceptions will only be made for pastor and worship team members while on stage during the worship service.

GENERAL SERVICE INFORMATION

No child care will be provided during “Phase One” due to safety concerns.

If attending with a child(ren), they should be comfortable wearing a mask for the entirety of the service, comfortable seeing everyone else in a mask, and able to easily maintain a 6 foot distance from other worshipers during the service.

We can accommodate a maximum of 50 attendees at this time.

ENTERING THE LOBBY

Outside and lobby doors will remain open so no one will have to touch the doors or handles.

We will be taking the temperature of all attendees as they enter. Anyone with a temperature over 100 will be sent home for everyone's safety.

Congregating inside of the lobby will be prohibited.

There will be no Cup of Joy at this time. Feel free to bring coffee and water from home.

Please use hand sanitizer often. You can use your own or what is provided at the Welcome Center.

If you did not remember to bring a mask from home, you may pick up a disposable mask at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

Bulletins will be available online and can be accessed by mobile device or computer from home.

ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

When entering the sanctuary as a household, please maintain 6 feet from others.

Face mask must remain on the entire time while in the Sanctuary including during congregational singing.

Sanctuary doors will be open at all times.

Congregating in the sanctuary is allowed as long as 6-foot social distancing protocols are implemented and face masks are worn.

Seating will be limited to every other pew. Only sit in the pew with the red cushions.

Attendees will sit 3 per pew spaced evenly (except if sitting as a household unit)

AFTER SERVICE

After service you may fellowship in the sanctuary as long as social distancing is observed and masks worn.

Sanctuary doors will remain open as will exterior doors.

Upon exiting the sanctuary we ask that all attendees exit the building without congregating.

Socializing can be done outside the church building.

USE OF RESTROOMS

Try not to use restrooms unless absolutely necessary. Use paper towel to open the door for exiting.

Faucets, inner doors, toilet handles and seats will be thoroughly wiped with Clorox wipes periodically upon usage.

Joy Community Fellowship is a member of the Evangelical Free Churches of America.

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