

Safety Guidelines For Worship

To the saints at Missouri City, what a time this has been over the last few months. We have truly seen some difficult days and now we continue to deal with the Delta variant of the Coronavirus.

There have been ups and downs over the past year, with both challenges and blessings, but God has seen us through it all. One of the toughest and most arduous decisions we had to make was cancelling our regular worship assembly to move to virtual worship. Who knew that this decision would continue for over a year? But praise God, a vaccine was available to limit the spread of this virus, giving us an opportunity to open our church doors and assemble for our regular worship. Unfortunately, the delta variant has created another surge and threat to the health of our church, community, and our country.

As your leaders, we understand the trials we face with this virus, and our prayer and goal is to follow the principle instructed by Jesus as He sent His disciple out on the Limited Commission: “... **be wise as serpents and harmless as doves**” (Matthew 10:16).

The idea of being “as wise as serpents” simply means to use your God-given wisdom to avoid danger whenever possible. The COVID-19 pandemic called for the exercising of wisdom when we initially made the decision to discontinue weekly assemblies, and the Delta variant calls for the exercising of wisdom, now, as we have resumed with our meeting together.

We recently reassembled in our beautiful, renovated edifice on August 15, 2021. We took the proper precautions, and did everything in our power to keep all members safe, however there were some areas that we overlooked. Following that service, one of our members did contract the virus. The source of the virus is unknown, whether it was at our facility or elsewhere. We have met with this individual and all others who were in contact, to ensure all members were informed.

We do not believe this was a COVID spreader based on the information that we have, but to be wise, we have created new guidelines for our services, and are asking every member of the congregation to follow the guidelines specified below, as we move forward with our assembling together in worship.

SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP Entrance into the facility

- 1) Each member is **required** to wear a face mask while in the facility
- 2) Each member is asked to use the hand sanitizer upon entrance into the building (*there will be several self-standing hand sanitizing dispensers at each door – simply place your hands under the dispenser and the sanitizing solution will be released into your hands without your need to touch anything*).
- 3) There will also be individuals stationed at each entrance to take your temperature as you enter the facility (please be patient and cooperate with them)
- 4) Each worshiper will be given individual self-contained communion packets upon entrance, and you will dispose of the empty containers in the designated receptacles upon your exit from the building.
- 5) We encourage you to continue to use our Elexio App, which is for online giving, or to text your giving in 281.767.8611, or mail it in to our P.O. Box 924 in Missouri City, TX 77459 for your offering. However, for those who choose to give your offering in person, designated members will have a container you can drop your offering in during the proper time.
- 6) We will have signs on the pews that are off limits so that you will only be able to sit in every other pew. Our ushers will direct members to sit in those sections only if space becomes limited.
- 7) All families are asked to sit together, and friends who come together may sit together, however we ask that you keep the proper distance between you and the worshiper on the pew next to you.
- 8) Please remain seated once seated unless you have an emergency
- 9) If you need to go to the restroom we are limiting each restroom to two people at a time.
- 10) All water fountains are off limits and will be taped off
- 11) When worship has ended you will be given specific directions as to how to exit the auditorium. You will be dismissed by rows, and each row will be given specific directions concerning which exit to utilize.
- 12) During confession time you are asked to come down front and fill out a confession card or fill one out from your seat. There will be no microphones passed around during confession time the elders will read from your cards.
- 13) We have hired a professional cleaning service that will be there on Sundays and they will sanitize all entrance and exit doors, bathroom doors, handles, etc., and wipe down the exposed areas on the chairs for the next worship service.
- 14) We encourage everyone to please remain at least six feet apart while engaging in conversation, and to avoid physical contact until the Lord removes this virus from us.

*We will not offer nursery or childcare during these worship services; parents will be responsible for their own children. Since there will be no nursery, Sunday School, or Kids

Church until further notice, please be gracious and encourage our young families whose children may not be accustomed to sitting in 'regular worship.

If within the last few days prior to attending worship you have had new symptoms such as fevers, chills, shaking, coughing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle pain, headache, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell, we ask that you remain at home. Also, if you have had any close contact within the past 14 days prior to attending with a patient with a known or clinically suspected COVID-19 diagnosis, we ask that you remain at home. The health and well-being of our people is of utmost importance to us.

We will continue to livestream our services for those who are not able to come or may not be comfortable with coming back to the physical facilities yet. The livestream will take place every Sunday at 10:00 AM.

Please contact your leaders via email or phone if you have questions or concerns.