

March 10, 2021

Dear Sargent Church family,

This past Sunday (March 7) we began to have people gather to worship in the sanctuary once more. It was wonderful to see your faces in person once again! Overall, this gathering was a success, and it makes us look forward to the day where we can all gather together again (hopefully soon!).

To those who are joining us on Sunday mornings, we thank you for your continued diligence in respecting the orders and keeping everyone safe and comfortable.

With that said, it became clear after the service that not everyone is at the same comfort level. As cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease, and as more and more people continue to receive a vaccine, we hope more people will feel comfortable to attend. But we are not there yet. Therefore, we want to make clear what our expectations are of people who are attending in person, and we want to give assurances to people who are not yet attending in person.

For now, this is what we will expect of attendees. Hopefully, these expectations can be eased in the coming months, but this can only happen if we are all respectful of the following:

- Stay home if you are feeling unwell.
- Wear masks at all times, and touch them as little as possible. The only exception for this is for those who are speaking (not singing) from the stage.
- Always keep 6 ft. distance between you and other households. The only exception for this is the audio/visual team, where 6 ft. distance cannot be maintained.
- Sanitize your hands upon entry/exit of the church building.
- Do not shake hands, bump fists or elbows, or take part in other forms of contact. We know it is exciting to see people once again, but we cannot be engaging in physical contact at this time.
- Enter in through the Garfield side entrance. There are spaced markings on the floor that will lead you to the sanctuary. If all the indoor spots are full, please wait outside (with 6 ft. separation) until there is room to enter.
- Please wait on the marked spots in the foyer, until an usher can seat you in your designated spot. Sit in the pew that you were assigned to. *Keep your coats with you to avoid congregating in the foyer before and after the service.
- Hymnals will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please leave used ones in the pews where they will be collected and sanitized on a weekly basis. Used hymnals will also sit for a minimum of two weeks before being placed back into rotation.

- Congregational singing will be permitted if it is done very quietly, although humming along is preferred (masks must still be worn at all times). Studies show that quiet singing produces about the equivalent number of droplets as a normal level of speaking, which is why it will be permitted. *If you wish to sing loudly, please talk to a pastor about leading the singing on a Sunday. **For those at home, you may hear the congregation singing along; that is because they are being picked up by the choir microphones, and not because they are singing loudly.
- Following the service, please exit out the nearest door as you are able. Do NOT congregate in the aisles or foyer. If you wish to have a conversation with someone, please do so outside and with 6 ft. separation. You may remain in your pew if you wish to sit, ponder, and/or pray following the service. You may also talk with neighbors if both parties remain in their designated seats. *Aisles must remain open so that the audio/visual and music teams can begin cleaning up.

We know that this will be difficult to follow for some, and that it may even seem like it is too strict. However, we are not in the clear yet, and we want to ensure that this is a safe environment for all who wish to participate. We do not want to go back to having only online services, and so this is what we expect for those who wish to attend.

Thank you to all for your understanding, and for your continued diligence in following these expectations. We look forward to seeing you all in person, and worshipping together in the same space once again.

Blessings,

Pastoral Team