



# **COVID-19 Update**

**As of 8/26/2020**



Trinity Church is committed to the safety of our friends and family and will re-open cautiously according to our State and Federal Government's general recommendations. Our guiding principles are centered on loving our neighbors well by utilizing safety precautions that consider the well-being of others – especially those who are most vulnerable. We ask that you show grace to us and others as we navigate what church looks like at “such a time as this.”

Many of you may feel uncomfortable about coming into the building to worship and being part of a larger gathering, and that's OK. We also encourage those of you who are considered “high risk” to remain safely at home for the time being. We will continue to gather via the radio broadcast on WHTC and internet livestream even if you are unable to be physically present in the sanctuary at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Our service will also be available to listen to at a later date on our website at [www.trinityrc.org](http://www.trinityrc.org) under the worship tab.

Below, you will find important information regarding what to expect as we move forward:

## **MASKS**

We ask that everyone wear a face mask, per the guidelines of the State of Michigan. Because some folks are unable to wear masks due to a health condition, we ask others to be diligent in order to protect these who are more vulnerable. Please refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth as well. If you do not have a mask or happen to forget it on any given Sunday, masks will be available.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Please respect the 6' social distancing parameters and refrain from hugging and shaking hands. If you become uneasy with someone getting “too close”, please feel free to ask them to respect your “space”. Please understand that it might be difficult for some folks to ask others to respect their space so be mindful of keeping 6' between you and them.

## **HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

Consider your health when deciding to attend church on Sunday morning. If you are sick or anyone in your home is ill, please stay home and join us online or via the radio. You must be fever-free and without a cough for 72 hours before Sunday morning. If you are not feeling well and are tested for COVID-19, please contact Pastor Deb or Pastor Phil immediately so that proper precautions can be taken. Your information will be held in confidence.

## **CHILDREN**

There will be no Children in Worship, Time for Children or nursery on Sunday mornings. Children must stay within an arm's reach of their parents or guardians the entire time they are on church property. The round tables at the rear of the sanctuary are reserved for parents to gather with their children during the service. Parents are welcome to bring snacks and activities for the children in their own family.

## **ENTERING AND EXITING**

- ◆ The Connection Café and drinking fountains will be closed. Please feel free to bring your own coffee or water.
- ◆ Bibles, hymnbooks and friendship pads have been removed from the sanctuary. Please bring your Bible from home. If you do not have one, we would be happy to provide one for you.
- ◆ Doors will be open 15 minutes before the service. Please remain in your vehicle until the doors open. Once the doors open, please abide by the 6' social distancing guidelines and wear a mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.
- ◆ Please wash your hands with sanitizer upon entering the building.
- ◆ You will be greeted at the open doors and will be directed to your mailbox to pick up your nametag, bulletin and other correspondence. You and your family or you and your "safe circle" will then be directed to your seat(s) which will be positioned 6' from those around you. (Six feet equals 4 chairs apart. (Every other row will be taped off)
- ◆ Please remain seated until you are dismissed by row to allow for proper social distancing. Please return your nametags to the basket before exiting the building. You are welcome to connect with your friends once outside while being mindful of social distancing.
- ◆ Except for the restrooms, all other areas of the building are closed on Sunday mornings at this time.

## DURING THE SERVICE

Worship leaders will not be masked when singing and/or speaking but will be masked at all other times. We will not be collecting offering during the service but offering plates will be set up in the sanctuary for you to deposit your gift upon entering or exiting the sanctuary. Online giving is available on our website at [www.trinityrc.org](http://www.trinityrc.org).

## SOCIAL EVENTS

We have been contacted by the Ottawa County Health Department as a reminder that we are unable to host events with more than 10 people in our building and can have gatherings no larger than 100 outside until further notice. For that reason, we will not be accepting reservations for family events, weddings, open houses, parties, community events, receptions, etc. until restrictions are lifted.

## THE OFFICE

The office will remain closed while the state is in Phase 4, which requires people to work remotely if possible. When the state reopens to Phase 5, the office will be open but office hours may be adjusted to minimize face to face contact. If you need to meet with Pastor Deb or Pastor Phil or another staff member, please make an appointment. ***In order to provide a safe work environment for church staff, please do not enter the office area without making prior arrangements.*** We know this is not ideal and that relationships are so important in carrying out ministry so we encourage you to call. We are here for you – but in a different way.

Pastor Deb      269-599-8730 (cell)

Pastor Phil      906-298-1701 (cell)

## COMMUNICATIONS

If you would like to receive communications from Trinity in printed form, please call the church office and leave a message. With the landscape of Covid-19 changing frequently, in-person gatherings may be unpredictable so communication is especially vital to staying connected. If you already receive the bulletin and Connections, etc. in the mail, you need not contact the office. Be sure and check the TV stations though for last minute cancellations as we are unable to contact everyone personally.

***We hope that you will join us in committing to THE 10 COMMITMENTS printed on the next page as we try to care for each other and help our friends and family feel safe.***

# THE TEN COMMITMENTS

I shall not come to church if I am sick.

I shall not come to church if someone in my family is sick.

I shall sanitize my hands when entering the church.

I shall cover my nose and mouth with a cloth covering while in church.

If I do not have one, one will be provided to me.

I shall maintain SIX feet between families in church.

I shall do my best not to touch my eyes, nose and mouth in church.

I shall protect our vulnerable important people (VIPs) who are over 60, have a preexisting medical condition, and are at greatest risk.

I shall exit the building when the service is over.

I shall conduct social distancing measures while socializing outside after the service is concluded.

**I shall help others to feel safe by my behavior.**