

RETURN TO IN-CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES GUIDELINES

This list has been prepared by our re-launch team (Debbie Greim, Dean Logan, Shane Soiett, Sue White, and the pastor) based on guidelines from our annual conference and the State of Maine. I think we all understand that it will not be worship as usual.

*** Face coverings will be mandatory throughout the worship time.*** We must be diligent about the face coverings while in the building where the air is not circulated as much as outdoors.

1.) Everyone will be asked to park in the back parking lot and use the door nearest the kitchen. An usher will be there to assist you with directions. Please use the hand sanitizer that will be available in the entryway. The upstairs rest room will also be available for hand washing. Masks will be available if you forget yours that day.

2.) There will be ushers at the top of the stairs and in the Narthex so that we don't all crowd together in the hallway or in the Narthex. The sanctuary will be cordoned off to create the necessary social-distancing and you will be ushered to your seat. We will all be dismissed in a like manner.

3.) The elevator will be available for those who need it. Those using it will be asked to maintain distance if you need to wait downstairs; please ride only with family members. There are enough keys available for all of our users to have their own for use each week.

4.) We will worship using the projected service that Verne prepares for us and shows on the "screen." There will be no worship bulletins (unless you request one from Pastor Elizabeth ahead of time); you will be given our usual insert with the prayer list and any announcements. Bibles or hymnals will not be available in the pews.

5.) Unfortunately, we will not be able to sing while we worship together as germs are spread longer distances by singing. For the present time we will not be inviting individuals to participate as lay readers.

6.) We won't be able to share the microphone for joys and concerns but our team will devise a way for you to write them down so that they can be given to Pastor Elizabeth prior to the beginning of worship.

7.) The offering plates will be available in the Narthex for us to leave our offering envelopes/checks/ cash in while either entering or leaving the sanctuary. We have had a good response to our online giving through the link available on our website (www.lisbonumchurch.org) and encourage you to begin or continue to use that. Please contact Monica McCusker if you have questions or concerns about it.

8.) The sanctuary will be cleaned and sanitized after each worship service; we are requesting that no one enter the sanctuary during the week.

9.) Our coffee fellowship will not be held as long as the pandemic continues. We pray for beautiful autumn Sundays so that we may safely visit out in the parking lot, if you wish.

These changes will not be forever but, I am confident that we will all adhere to them for the safety of those we love in the church family.

RETURN TO IN-CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES GUIDELINES

Also, we know that our in-person worship will be on a week-by-week basis; if conditions worsen – and we pray that they will not – we will need to reconsider being in the sanctuary.

We recognize that these are a LOT of “dos and don’ts” but we pray that you will embrace them all for the sake of being together in our sanctuary for the worship of our God. We also recognize that not everyone who was present mid-March will be with us mid-September and beyond. We respect those difficult decisions.

I will continue to mail our “at home” worship bulletins to those who wish to have one; in addition, we will continue to live stream our worship service via Facebook even when we return to in-person worship. We will continue to work hard as we have been to keep us all as connected as possible even in the midst of these ongoing challenges.