



# TRINITY CHURCH

ON TELFAIR SQUARE SINCE 1848

## Guidelines for Re-Opening Our Building for Ministry

It's hard to believe we have not gathered in our building for worship since mid-March! I am eager to return to in person worship, as I'm sure you are too, and we obviously want to do that in the safest and most responsible way. As your pastor and in consultation with our Administrative Board, we have been in conversation about the best way to move forward to gathering again in our building for ministry. In these conversations, we have been guided by the words of Jesus in Mark 12:31 when he said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We have also been guided by our vision for ministry that reminds us our ultimate goal in ministry is to help each other to "live and love like Jesus." That is always our goal as a church and, in striving for that goal, we want to practice the classic Wesleyan principle of "do no harm." While there is a lot we do not fully know yet, one thing we do know is that worship is going to look different even after we return.

With that in mind, here is what we are planning for moving forward:

1. Resume In-Person Worship – **October 18, 2020**
  - We will plan to resume our 11:00am worship time in a modified way to accommodate for added safety precautions
  - Small Groups are welcome to meet on site, but must observe social distancing and a mandatory order to wear masks
    - Groups are still welcome to meet via Zoom if desired too
  - We will not offer coffee and donuts for the time being
2. We will practice safe social distancing within the sanctuary. **Seating will be in every third pew**
  - Families will be encouraged to sit together
  - Ushers will be available to help you find a seat. But pews designated for seating will be clearly marked
  - We will open our balcony for those more able-bodied people who don't mind climbing stairs to get to a pew
3. We will make wearing masks mandatory until further notice. We can not emphasize the importance of this enough — while in our building, we ask that you love your neighbor by being willing to wear a mask.

- We will provide masks, but you are welcome to bring your own
  - Our Trinity Kids staff will also be required to wear masks and may opt to wear face shields as they feel is needed
4. We will clean all hard surfaces in the sanctuary multiple times during the week. In addition to that, we are offering new touch-free sanitizer stations throughout the building to give you the opportunity to wash your hands during your time in the building.
  5. We are going to offer our Trinity Kids ministry in a very modified way:
    - Children who attend the Trinity Kids time will be dropped off directly to the 2nd floor every Sunday. Children are still welcome in the sanctuary, but must stay with their family unit for the duration of worship.
    - We will not have acolytes or a children's moment for the time being. When conditions are safer, we will welcome kids back for these important leadership roles
    - Children will have their temperatures checked with a touch-free thermometer upon entering their room. We will offer that check-in at our normal check in spot on the 2nd floor in front of the elevator
    - Our staff will wear masks weekly. And we will have a cleaning process for toys and furniture. We're asking staff to lead while keeping a 6 foot distance from kids as much as possible. And we're offering them face shields as they feel necessary
  6. We will continue to offer online worship for those who are not ready to return yet. There will be no pressure or judgment if you want to stay online for worship. Please know that our online campus will continue to be a vital part of our church family no matter what
  7. Our choir will not be a part of our worship leadership at this time. Instead, we will continue to have cantors leading singing as they have done throughout the livestream only experience. We will offer special music in small ensembles and singers will be individually mic'd, masked, and distanced from one another and those gathered in person.

As you can see, there is a lot that goes into this decision to re-open our building for worship! And these are all plans and we all know plans can change based on circumstances. We ask for your patience and your grace as we try to sort this all out. As important as it is for us to gather again in this historic and holy space, we want to be hyper vigilant that we do so in the safest way possible. We look forward to being the church in our building again very soon. But never forget that YOU are Trinity Church for the sake of Jesus Christ wherever you go!