

## **Guidelines for In-Person Worship St. Margaret's Episcopal Church**

Covid-19 is highly contagious, especially through tiny aerosol droplets that are a normal product of speaking. It can cause serious complications, and all its lasting impacts are not yet fully understood. To guard everyone's safety, your commitment to these guidelines is essential.

1. If you are in fragile health or have a condition enhancing your risk of serious complications (obesity, hypertension, chronic lung disease, diabetes, immune disorder or cardiovascular disease), please do not attend. The church will assure you have worship resources to be used at home. Please be mindful that the hospitalization rate for those over 65 is three times greater than the overall population.
2. Please take your temperature before coming to church. Do not come if it is above normal or you have any symptoms of illness such as sore throat, sneezing or coughing. We can take your temperature when you arrive if you cannot do it at home.
3. Bring your own pen or pencil with you. We will ask you to write your name on your program before you leave it for recycling, as this will help with contact-tracing if that is needed.
4. Wear a facial covering as soon as you get out of the car. Keep it on throughout the time you are at church. Assure a good fit, so you don't need to touch or adjust it.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available in the entry. Use it before you pick up a program and as you leave. Avoid touching pew backs as much as possible.
6. The offering plate will be at the back of the church. It will minimize touching if you have your offering ready when you come.
7. Stay 6 feet distant from others. Right now, true Christian love does not include hugging, shaking hands or bumping elbows. 6 feet means 6 feet (or more).
8. Sit where indicated by signage. Members of the same family may sit without distancing. Ushers will be there to help.
9. If using the restrooms, use a tissue to handle any levers or door latches. Take paper towels before washing your hands, and use one to handle the faucet.

During worship, expect:

1. No congregational singing; this can expel pathogens as far as 27 feet.
2. No kneeling. It leads to extra touching of surfaces and extra cleaning.
3. Limited congregational responses, to minimize speaking
4. No choir, for the same reason we cannot include congregational singing. We will offer a soloist or duets when feasible.
5. No coffee hour.

May we embrace the separation from things we thought were so essential to our worship, so that God might remind us of what is truly essential. Our worship WILL encourage and inspire us to receive and share the all-healing love of God.