

## **JUMC Worship Overview Spring 2021**

Many thanks for your patience, flexibility, generosity and faithfulness as the “how” of our worship has been transformed in order to keep others safe and healthy! We are excited that indoor worship will resume on Sunday, April 11.

**You are invited to worship each Sunday, beginning April 11,  
at 10:00 am in the JUMC Sanctuary.**

Masks and social distancing are required, and many aspects of worship will be different. Read on to understand what worship will be like and how to prepare as we come together as God’s people.

### **Service Time & Location**

- The service will be held at 10:00 am.
- We will worship in the Sanctuary.

*This allows use of the proven video recording set-up so worship can continue to be shared with those who choose not to come in person.*

*If you have strong preference for another worship time, please don’t worry ... we do expect to offer varied worship options again in the future. And, please DO come to worship, even if it’s not your favorite time or space ... God honors our willingness to “bend a bit” in service to others.*

### **Preparing at Home**

- First and foremost, if you are not well or you are at all anxious about attending a worship service in person – please stay home! Worship will continue to be video recorded and available to all on the internet and distributed via e-mail. We know the Holy Spirit brings our hearts together in worship, wherever we are located.
- If you attend, please remember to bring several items with you:
  - face mask,
  - envelope with your offering/tithe enclosed, and
  - your Bible and/or electronic device with downloads or links to hymns and scripture (if you choose).
- Plan some extra time – once you get to church, the social distancing and sanitizing procedures may slow down your entry a bit!
- No child care will be available when we first move inside. If your youngsters are likely to lose interest in some parts of worship, please bring along some appropriate materials to keep them engaged.

## Arriving

- When you arrive, park your vehicle as you normally would. We will use only the main door at the top of the ramp to enter and exit the building.
- When you get out of your car, please—
  - put on your mask;
  - have your giving envelope ready to drop in the collection basket; and
  - maintain 6 feet distance from others who are arriving.
- You will see a masked greeter outside to welcome you. This person will have the door open for you and offer a wave, verbal greeting and mask-covered smile. The greeter will maintain the appropriate distance, but still be able to answer any questions you may have.
- As weather allows, the collection basket will be just outside the doors into the building.

## Entering

- Please keep your mask on at all times.
- Someone may be there to note who is attending. Please don't be offended if this person has to ask your name!
- Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations in the narthex. As you know, washing or sanitizing hands is important to reduce the spread of any disease (colds, flu, COVID-19, etc.). It's wise and courteous to clean your hands before and after touching shared surfaces, wiping your nose and using the rest room.
- Please follow the ushers' direction and enter the sanctuary. We will use the center and side doors to access the pews. These doors will be propped open.

## Finding Your Spot

- You will notice bulletins placed in seats in "social distancing" locations. Please choose one of these seats.

*The bulletins will have been placed at least 48 hours in advance, which allows for any potential "germs" to clear before your arrival. (Of course, we'll also ensure that whoever places them will be masked and gloved and healthy.)*

- The available seating places will be at either end of every other pew. We expect that a family group of three or four people can sit at one end while leaving a gap of six feet to a one- or two-person family at the other end of the same pew.
- Please sit only in these designated spaces, except at the direction of the ushers.

*FYI: It is six feet from the back of a pew to the back of the pew two rows away. The pews are 14.5 feet long. If we have a “crowd” with lots of individuals or pairs, it could be safe to intersperse some people in the center of the alternate rows. The ushers will make this determination.*

- Offering envelopes, pencils and attendance have been removed to reduce any chances of cross-contamination.
- As much as we love one another, please refrain from any physical or close-distance greetings inside, including handshakes, hugs, “high-fives,” elbow bumps, etc. We want to keep this holy space and time safe and welcoming for all.

### **Worship Helps & Components**

- Bulletins will be provided, and we’ll use hymns and some reading from the hymnal. Please do not share a hymnal beyond your household “pod.” You also are welcome to bring your own electronic device and access downloads or links to the scripture and hymns, provided via the email that will be sent each Saturday.
- The service will probably last about 45-50 minutes.
- Music will include a mix of offerings from Dr. Danny Hester on the organ, Robert Watson and others on guitar/vocals, and singers helping lead the hymns. All of these will be from the chancel area, which is at least 15 feet from the closest pews.
- If you choose to sing along, do so very quietly (more “to yourself”), and of course with mask on. Please wait until you are outside (and still at least six feet away from others) to raise your voice in praise!
- There will be a basket available to deposit your offering as you enter or exit, since no offering plates/baskets will be passed.
- As we continue to reach out with a video recording of the service, there is need for slight pauses between worship elements to allow for later video editing. Please use this slower pace of worship as a time for reflection, prayer and basking in God’s presence.

### **Departing**

- When the service is finished, you will be directed on how to exit, toward the place you came in. Folks who are closest to the doors will be asked to go out first. Please remain at your seat until you can move without coming closer than six feet to others.
- There will be a recycle box near the exit door so you can discard any papers you do not feel comfortable taking home with you. Please help by carrying out anything you have used or brought in.

- You will be asked to refrain from congregating or visiting inside the building.
- All the doors will be opened for you.
- If you do choose to visit once you are outside the building, please maintain the recommended social distancing. We request that you keep on your mask until you reach your car, whether or not you stop to speak with others.

### **Rest Rooms**

- The rest rooms off the narthex will be available and contain hand-washing supplies.
- Please wear your mask in the rest room so that 1) you are not potentially breathing out “germs” AND so that 2) you remember to keep your hands—which might pick up any virus someone else has left on a surface—away from your nose and mouth.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds to remove any virus you might pick up from surfaces that others have touched.
- Please use sanitizer in the narthex to re-sanitize your hands before re-entering the worship space IF you need to touch the door handle to get out of the rest room.

### **Capacity Limits & Other Ways to Participate in Worship**

- We will follow NCHHS guidelines to limit indoor participation to no more than 50% of capacity—and also to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. If more people than this arrive, we may need to ask you to listen from your car instead.
- The FM transmitter will be set up to allow folks to listen and participate from the parking lot as well.
- A video of the service will be distributed via email and posted to Facebook and the JonesboroUMC.org website each Monday.