

## Transitional Worship Plan

## First United Methodist Church Valpo

From our Bishop, Julius Trimble: Follow our first general rule of “Do no harm” –

- Wear masks
- Wash hands frequently
- Practice *disciplined* social distancing

This is a broad 3-phase guide based on the following assumptions...

- Reported new cases of the virus in Porter County continue in a downward trend.
- **Everyone** exercises personal responsibility! No one person is the exception or more important than the whole!
- Those over the age of 65, **or** considered “at risk” should worship online until they feel they can safely attend in person.
- Anyone who has tested positive for, **or** is currently symptomatic of, or believe they may have/had Covid-19, should worship on-line.
- Healthy individuals/families may attend worship in person. Families may sit together, but must practice social distancing from others at all times.
- For **in-person worship**, we will require the use of face masks during **Phase I**. We will have a limited number available, if needed.
  - Every other pew will be closed; additional seating can be made available in Fellowship Hall. Between services, closed pews will be alternated.
  - Ushers will seat people before the service (front to back), and dismiss at the conclusion (back to front).
  - We will NOT have bulletins, donuts, coffee, refreshments, attendance cards, or offering plates. Bibles and hymnals have been removed from the pews.
  - We WILL have marked locked boxes for offerings in the Fellowship Hall. Prayer requests may be submitted on-line, by email or a phone call to the church office.
  - Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month, but done so as to avoid/minimize physical contact.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be prominently marked throughout the building
- Nursery, children, youth, and adult classes will be closed through these phases.
- Restrooms, door handles, and pews will be wiped-down between services.

### Phase I – June 13-28 WORSHIP ONLY

**Beginning June 13**, we will offer three services over the weekend. **We will limit each service to 125 people** plus worship participants (pastor, musicians, technicians, ushers, greeters). People will register on *signup.com* or contact the church office. For the time being, these numbers will be strictly enforced! For those signing up on-line please print your confirmation email.

The Saturday service will be recorded to offer on-line on Sunday mornings as has been our practice.

Saturdays, June 13, 20 & 27

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Sundays, June 14, 21 & 28

Worship at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

## **Phase II – July 5-July 26 WORSHIP**

- Limited to 150 people per service.
- All assumptions remain in place.
- Each service will be a maximum of 50 minutes.
- 9:15 service will be live-streamed, with 11:00 as a back-up.

8:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

## **Building Accessibility & Group Meetings**

Building and office will be open regular hours beginning July 6. The front desk will be staffed.

Church groups, and committees of 25 people or less may begin meeting in the building, but must reserve space and time through Kate Shifflett in the church office.

## **Phase III - beginning August 1**

Building will be open for all activities, groups, classes and meetings. This includes weddings, receptions, funerals, and meals.

Groups are asked to contact Kate Shifflett in the office to confirm their days, times, and rooms before resuming their meetings.

### **Beginning August 2:**

Worship at 9:00 & 11:11 a.m.; services will be livestreamed.

Necessary precautionary measures will be in place.

Sunday Connection classes & fellowship: 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Nursery, children, and youth classes available

**Additional phasing-in and parameters will be determined as this situation evolves.**

Also to be determined is when to begin bus shuttle service.

**ENTIRE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE** based on government restrictions, and at the discretion of the pastor, staff, and leadership.