Reopening Task Force Update

Last Wed we had a meeting of the task force in the sanctuary to get a better feel for what needs to be done and solidify what proceedures need to be in place.

We are going with 75 max people in the sanctuary at one time until the covid levels go down more. Jason is setting up a sign in sheet for a service at 10am and one at 11:30am. We are limiting the number of people to sign up to 50 at each service. The reason for this is to accommodate the greeters, ushers, tech team and choir. Although the choir will not be singing every week, it is less confusing to pick a number that includes them and leave it at that instead of adjusting the number every week. The count for the “extra” people is:

Choir, 10-15

Tech team, 2-3

Greeters, 2-3

Ushers, 2-3

Walk-ins ?

I am not including Rev Jen and the worship associate since they are sitting up front and away from every one. Also not included is Charles at the front desk (I think someone will be there, but not sure)

The choir will be singing masked and not social distanced. They are comfortable with that. Chairs are set up for the choir near the exit door where they were before we shut down. Those chairs will be available for congregants when the choir isn’t singing. People can sing with masks on.

Jason will remind people that if they signed up for in person services one week, they should wait until later in the following week to sign up to give people a chance to sign up that couldn’t come the previous week. The good news is that the weather is warming. It won’t be long until we can seat everyone in an outdoor service.

We are asking everyone who is over the age of 2yo to wear a mask and those without a mask will be provided one by the greeters. Ushers will remind people again as they are walking into the sanctuary to wear their mask over their nose and mouth.

The doors will open no earlier than 9:45am to allow the tech team to do sound checks for zoom. (zoom is only provided during the 1st service) The congregants will only be able to enter the church through the front door. All other doors will be locked. Greeters will let people/families in one group/person at a time. Ushers will help them find seats if necessary. 2 seats are the equivalent of 3’ and ushers will let the congregants know this so they can sit as far apart as their comfort level permits. Everyone will be offered an order of service. There was a discussion of having a QR code that when scanned will have the order of service. This is a great idea moving forward to cut down on printing orders of service. Hymnals will be available in the lobby as they enter the sanctuary for those that want them. The words for the songs will be on the tv as usual.

Upon leaving, there will be an offering basket at the back of the sanctuary. Ushers will let one row at a time leave the sanctuary so people aren’t congregating in the lobby. There will no food or drinks inside the church. There was a discussion of bringing coffee/tea outside on nice days. People can feel free to socialize outside. There was a discussion of tailgating in the parking lot, but only after the 2nd service.

It is not clear at this time what we are doing about name badges, but feel we should continue with this practice.

There was a safety protocol in place for active shooter or other threatening situations before we shut down. We have decided that with all that is on the table right now, we are putting the safety measures re-training on hold until we have everything else working well.

Lastly, the sanctuary needs a deep cleaning and Jason will schedule that with the cleaning company.

This is a work in progress, so the Reopening Task Force will keep meeting weekly to refine the process.