GUIDANCE FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

COVID-19 is highly contagious and can be spread to others by those that exhibit no symptoms. The high risk of spreading the virus requires rigorous protocols when people gather. In addition to guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the following practices are recommended to protect the health and safety of employees, volunteers, and congregants.

- Thorough facility cleaning prior to all services
- Limit attendance to 50% capacity
- Only immediate families should sit together
- Avoid passing of offering plates or communion trays
- Bulletins should be distributed by gloved ushers
- Skip pews to facilitate social distancing
- Masks should be worn when entering and exiting facilities
- Families should maintain 6 foot of distance between other families
- Avoid hugs, handshakes, and similar gestures of affection
- Dismiss attendees in sections
- Choirs should maintain social distance and avoid sharing microphones, hymnals, etc.
- Encourage at risk members, specifically those 65 and older, to participate remotely
- Provide disposable masks to congregants
- Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available
- Screening of congregants before entering facilities for temperatures that exceed 100.4