

COVID FAQ for Georgetown Presbyterian Church

Q. Are there presently any restrictions and expectations placed upon those who attend worship services at Georgetown Presbyterian?

A. Yes, the Session (church's governing board) has approved a number of guidelines/requirements to be observed by those attending worship that are aimed at helping the church provide as safe a place as possible while people are here.

Q. What are those guidelines?

A. There are several. One is that no one who is sick and feeling flulike symptoms should make an attempt to attend any of our services or events. If you have been exposed and not yet tested, we ask that you refrain from attending services or events until you have been.

Another is that worshippers are to be seated on pews in the precise area where bulletins have been placed by Ushers prior to the service. In other words, don't pick up a bulletin and slide down the pew to be seated. The placement of bulletins is intentional and designed to keep people socially distanced from another. Sit where you find the bulletin on the pew.

Still another is that we are asking those attending to wear masks when they enter and while they're in the seated area of the sanctuary. This is easily the most controversial of the guidelines approved by Session but important to observe for the time being. Masks will be provided to those who don't have one. If wearing a mask is untenable for you, we invited you to join us online through Facebook Live or through the church website to view the service in that way.

Q. Do you observe Holy Communion now?

A. Yes, but containers with bread and juice already prepared are dispensed to worshippers as they enter the sanctuary. We don't pass trays down the aisle or have people come forward to commune by intinction as has been our practice in the past.

Q. Does anything get passed from person to person down the pew such as offering plates or the ritual of friendship pads?

A. No, the offering plates are placed in the Narthex for your convenience to leave your tithes and offerings as you enter or leave the sanctuary. It's important to note that you can also make financial contributions to GPC online through the church website under the "Giving" tab at the

top of the home page. We are not using the friendship pads either at this time. These measures are obviously intended to minimize the touching of things other worshippers have touched.

Q. What is the maximum number of worshippers allowed at this time?

A. No more than 50% of the sanctuary's seating capacity which is 140-150. To date, we have not exceeded 95 people at any service since we started back having services in mid-June.

Q. Is there any singing during the services?

A. To begin with, there was none. In August, the decision was made to allow it in limited amounts and to be done with masks on as we sing. This is also controversial with some, but this is the current standard.

Q. Is hand sanitizer readily available?

A. Yes. There is a dispenser in the Narthex for your convenience as you enter the front doors.

Q. Has anyone contracted COVID 19 from attending a service at Georgetown Presbyterian?

A. Though it's impossible to say in a definitive way, no one has reported getting sick with COVID 19 or exposed to it from attending one of our services to our knowledge.

Q. How long will these measures be in place?

A. Until the Session deems it safe to relax them, but they will be in place for the foreseeable future. The safety of church members and guests is of great importance. It should be said again that church leaders hope those who feel it's unsafe to attend our services, for whatever reasons they may have, will tune in to view them online. The livestreaming and online services will continue to be made available to the general public.

The church also provides a safe and clean nursery for infants and toddlers. Additionally, the Children's Church program is back in operation, so families with young children are encouraged to attend our weekly 10:00 worship service.