

Gilbert Presbyterian Church

Vision of Return to Worship as of 06/03/2020

We are all looking forward to seeing our church family together again in worship. When we gather together, things will look different than you remember. In order to keep all of us safe and healthy, we have gathered guidance from the state and federal government, presbytery, and various health professionals. Using this guidance, we have developed the following changes to best protect our church family:

1. Sanitizing stations will be provided at each entrance to the building, so that each person can clean their hands prior to the service.
2. The offering plate will no longer be passed. There will be touch-free drop boxes at each exit from the building. You will also have the option to mail in your offering to the church office, or to give electronically via tithe.ly
3. Paper products which are used by multiple people have been removed from the sanctuary. This includes bulletins, hymnals, Bibles, pink prayer cards, and sign-in pads. Bulletin content will continue to be e-mailed prior to each week's service and will also be projected on the screens in the sanctuary, along with scripture readings.
4. Worshippers will be seated according to social-distancing guidelines. We will be seated in alternate rows, and family units will be seated 6 feet apart from others; blue tape has been used to mark appropriate spacing. Ushers will assist you in finding a seat.
5. Because our sanctuary is not a large space, we anticipate only about 30 people can be seated (including seats in the overflow area) when social distancing guidelines are implemented. This limited seating may make it necessary to implement a system of making reservations prior to attending church.
6. Face masks will be required of everyone entering the building. If you have a personal face mask, you are asked to please bring it with you and to wear it throughout the service. If you do not have a face mask, extras will be available in the narthex.
7. On June 2, 2020, Presbytery of Grand Canyon announced that at the present time, congregational singing has been prohibited, due to concerns about virus transmission.
8. Communion will not be shared in the traditional fashion.
9. Worshippers will be asked to exit through the three external doors, to minimize congestion. Exits will be clearly marked, and ushers will assist you in finding the appropriate exit.
10. Coffee fellowship hour is being discontinued at this time. We ask that you move outdoors well beyond the exit doors to carry on conversations with friends.
11. Surfaces that may be contacted by multiple individuals (door handles, restrooms, etc) will be thoroughly cleaned at the conclusion of each worship service.
12. The church office and kitchen, as well as the Palmer Center, will remain closed at this time.
13. At this time, outside groups are not using GPC facilities, so that we can be sure cleanliness standards are appropriately followed.

We recognize that following these new guidelines will be challenging for all of us, as we are accustomed to shaking hands, hugging, etc. We will all have to remember to be gentle with one another and kindly help each other adjust to these big changes.