

Epworth will begin in person worship on June 14th. I know that some of you are very anxious to return to worship, others feel anxious about returning, and most of us are feeling both. I am so grateful that we have been able to worship through our various media outlets and I know that we have been in a better position than most churches to keep us connected. It has been good to hear from you about have enjoyed the services. As we approach reopening I want to share these guidelines that we will be following as we come back.

- We will continue to broadcast the service on suddenlink channel 6, Facebook live, and Youtube for those who feel better about participating from a distance.
- If you are sick please participate from home.
- If you are in a vulnerable category by health or age or feel uncomfortable returning please continue to participate from home.
- Masks will be properly worn by all persons older than 10 years old. Please bring your own mask but we will have masks available should someone forget.
- Those leading worship will wear masks except when speaking, singing, and playing an instrument.
- Park and enter the building from the North parking lot and entry.
- Arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the service and do not congregate in groups prior to the service.
- Families can sit together but there should be at least six feet between families.
- Every other pew will be closed to help with social distancing. We will also adjust seating so that we follow a checker board pattern.
- We will have no congregational singing. This is because of the documented heightened risk of spreading the droplets through singing.
- Supplies are being removed from the pews, there will be no printed bulletins and we will not be passing the offering plate. The offering plates will be on stands by the doors so offerings can be left before or after the service.
- The air will be circulated during worship and interior doors will remain open to decrease having to touch door handles and to improve air circulation.
- Following worship, please keep your mask on as you proceed to the parking lot and refrain from gathering together in the building so that we do not constrain the flow of traffic as people leave. Once you are outside, please remember to keep six feet of distance and to refrain from shaking hands.
- The church and sanctuary will be cleaned and disinfected before being used again.

This will be how we worship in the coming weeks. As we have learned our understanding of the covid 19 virus changes almost daily and the level of infections rises and fall depending on how carefully we relate to each other. This means that we will be ready to loosen or tighten these practices depending on recommendations from the CDC, Governor's office, and the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

With hope and grace,

Rev. Scott Keneda