



## COVID-19 Update: April 30, 2021

As they have throughout the coronavirus pandemic, our Board of Elders has been considering local conditions; listening to the guidance of local, state, and national officials; and watching the safety measures put in place by other area churches and businesses. After discussing these factors at their most recent meeting, *the Elders have recommended the following changes to our COVID-19 protocols beginning Sunday, May 16:*

- We will no longer print the full order of service in the bulletin but will use the hymnal for liturgy and hymns;
- We will once again pass the attendance registration books and the offering plates as part of our weekly worship; and
- There will be no ropes requiring the use of every other pew, and the process for approaching the altar for communion will return to our pre-COVID-19 patterns.

Even without designated pews for seating, there is space in the sanctuary for those who wish to maintain social distancing. Anyone who prefers to wear a mask before, during, or after services is also welcome to do so.

While conditions in other parts of the state, nation, and world may be very different, the number of coronavirus cases in our county has remained very low for over two months and has been declining since January ([showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/county](http://showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/county)). Additionally, the number of people in our congregation and community who are fully vaccinated has steadily increased. The Board of Elders will continue to monitor the situation and will reevaluate our COVID precautions should conditions or changes in mandates require it.

Many people have returned to in-person worship and other ministry activities, and we look forward to resuming more opportunities in upcoming weeks and months. However, if you or someone you know is not yet comfortable returning to in-person gatherings, please reach out to one of us. We would like to consider ways we can best provide spiritual care at this time.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments about the status of our pandemic protocols, you may direct those to the Board of Elders or one of us.

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty”  
(Psalm 91:1 ESV).

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt  
Senior Pastor

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Associate Pastor

**Preaching. Teaching. Reaching.**

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