**Outside Worship Guidelines**

   
 Our pastors, worship team, and church leaders have been prayerfully considering and discussing what plans and guidelines we would need to help us gather together for worship during this stage of the Coronavirus Pandemic. As United Methodists, our guiding principles have been John Wesley’s three simple rules. Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.  
 With this in mind, we have worked to practice hospitality with one another that focuses on the health and well-being of all those in attendance for worship. Guidelines and procedures for each phase of our process will be developed as needed. Until we can prepare our buildings across our campuses for re-entry, we will be worshiping in-person together outside using the following guidelines. These are based on each of us making our own prayerful, personal, and responsible choices in whether we will participate in these opportunities at this time.   
   
**PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL**

* Ask yourself these questions: Have I traveled over the last 14 days? Have I been in large crowds? Do I have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever or chills, aches, headache, shortness of breath, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, no sense of taste or smell, nausea/diarrhea)? Is my immune system comprised? If you answer **YES** to one or more of these questions, we ask that you please stay at home and watch the service online at 11:00 am.
* Family needs can be handled without a nursery being provided during the service.
* Go to the restroom prior to arrival (restrooms in the buildings will be accessible only in an emergency)
* Get masks (masks are not required, but are encouraged) and chairs for yourself and/or everyone who will be with you.

**UPON ARRIVAL**

* Bring the chair(s) you will need for yourself and/or family, and head to the designated worship area. Look for the **Welcome Tents**.
* PERSONS IN YELLOW SHIRTS ARE THERE TO HELP YOU – JUST ASK THEM
* Make every effort to maintain social distancing as you move about while on campus
* The **Welcome Tents** will have:
  + hand sanitizer available for those who want it
  + disposable masks for those who need one
  + water bottles available for those who think it would be helpful
  + bulletins for those who would like one
  + chairs (for those who cannot carry theirs) will be available and placed by our volunteers
* **Look for a spot to place your chair(s) that allows room for others and social distancing of six feet**
* Greet people you see with a wave, head nod, air high-five, or air hug. Remember, too, we smile with our eyes as well as our mouths.

**DURING WORSHIP**

* Fully participate in worship as you normally would while continuing with social distancing
* The **Passing of the Peace** will be done together as instructed
* When we worship through song, sing with a full heart but normal voice
* During **Children’s Time**, all children will stay with their parents
* **Offering baskets** will not be passed but are available as you entering or leaving

**AFTER WORSHIP**

Please pick up your chair and other belongings, drop any trash into one of the trash cans, and make your way to the parking lot while keeping socially distant. Please be patient with one another, and do not get pressed in together. If someone carried your chair for you, simply leave it there as you leave.

**An online survey will be available after the service. Please take time to fill out the short survey on our social media locations or through The Call. Your prayers, support, and participation in the life and worship of St. Mark UMC make a difference**.