

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Lincoln, NE
Guidelines for Sanctuary Worship

(As approved by Session, March 2021)

Worship Guides

- To welcome our congregation back to Sanctuary Worship, a team of “Worship Guides” has been recruited to serve as greeters and guides on Sunday mornings. If you have a question, concern, or joy to share on a Sunday morning, please speak with a Westminster member wearing a Worship Guide name tag.

Registering

- To help us communicate with attendees in the event of a known COVID case at Westminster and to follow session-approved guidelines for numbers, attendees are required to register for worship online or by calling the church office no later than 12:00pm each Friday. If a service reaches capacity, we ask that you register for the following Sunday’s service ASAP.
- The link in a previous version of this document was not accessible when ‘clicking’ in an iPhone or iPad. Please see the weekly eVine or April 12th email for the direct link to our Eventbrite sign-up.

What to Expect: Facilities

- Please enter using the East / parking lot doors. At the top of the stairs will be a Worship Guide at a table with a sanitizer station and extra masks (sewn and disposable). The Guide will answer any questions and help direct you toward the Narthex to enter worship. Additionally, the sanctuary elevator on the North side of the building will also be available as-needed for entering and exiting the sanctuary. Please inform a Worship Guide for elevator assistance.
- Once you are seated, we ask that you remained seated until after the service concludes and you are dismissed by a Worship Guide.
- Masks will be required indoors at Westminster’s facilities at all times, including during the service.
- Sanitizer stations will be spaced throughout the entry, Garden Room, and Narthex.
- Please use appropriate (6-ft.) distancing between households while indoors at Westminster.
- Additional Worship Guides will greet your household in the Narthex, and one will guide you to your seats based on appropriate distancing practices in our sanctuary and the number of attendees already seated.
- At first, you will not find Bibles, hymnals, or other “touchable” items in the pews. This will be reviewed with ongoing assessment by the Worship Task Force.
- An offering box will be available in the Narthex following the service.
- Following the service, Worship Guides will dismiss by row (similar to a wedding). Worshippers will be asked to exit through the West / Sheridan Blvd. doors and to circle back around to the parking lot.

What to Expect: Worship Service

- Services will be abbreviated (~30-35 minutes). For the time being, there will be no singing (please see guidance from the CDC, Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and The Center for Congregational Song), communion, or childcare/nursery with ongoing assessment by the Worship Task Force regarding viability and safety.
- Following the service, there will be no fellowship or lingering in the building. Coffee and juice will not be served.
- Westminster Staff will not be expected to be available for fellowship or contact at this time with ongoing assessment for comfort and staff vaccination schedules.
- No individual (church member or staff person) will be required to attend Sanctuary Worship at this time.

Other Information

Background

- These guidelines were revised and/or developed by the Westminster Worship Task Force (Rob Baltensperger, Kelly Braswell, Cyndy Maddux, Rev. Chris Peters, and Deb Schorr) and approved by Session in March 2021.
- In mid-March, Rev. Chris Peters, Rob Baltensperger, Deb Schorr, and Diana Wild (Music & Worship Moderator) met with Ben Davy, Senior Environmental Health Specialist for the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department. That meeting consisted of a walk-through of our facilities (from East Entry through the Narthex and Sanctuary). Mr. Davy gave us in-depth advice regarding COVID protocols and best practices specific to Westminster's facilities (ex. How to seat and dismiss from pews). The preceding guidelines were developed and/or revised from previously approved guidelines using the information and advice from this meeting.
- Guidelines and practices will be revised and adapted as the Task Force makes adjustments on our journey to a "full" worship service. We appreciate your feedback, grace, and patience in this process.

Session-Approved Recommendation: *"The Worship Task Force recommends that Westminster begin an in-person service in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 18th. This service will be at 9:30am and initially capped at a capacity of 75 people."*