

Westminster Presbyterian Church , Lincoln, NE

Guidelines for Sanctuary Worship

(As re-approved by Session, May 24, 2021. Updates are highlighted.)

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

- Beginning with Sunday May 30th services, Westminster will no longer require pre-registration for worship.

What to Expect: Facilities

- Please enter using the East Doors, if possible. A Worship Guide will greet you at the top of the stairs. The Guide may 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 if you need elevator assistance.

- We highly encourage people to wear masks in the Westminster facility, including the Sanctuary, in order to protect unvaccinated children and the immunocompromised attending worship and other events. This includes “travel spaces” such as the Garden Room and Narthex.

- Sanitizer stations are spaced throughout the entry, Garden Room, and Narthex.

- Please use appropriate (6-ft.) distancing between households while indoors at Westminster.

- Worship Guides will greet your household in the Narthex, and any questions related to seating may be answered. Guides will help your family find reasonably distanced seating with flexibility on preferred location.

- In our first few weeks “back”, we have added bulletins, Bibles, and also allow worship leaders to speak without masks.

- During the postlude, Worship Guides will dismiss by area (back / middle / front). Worshippers may exit in any direction they wish (Sheridan/West Doors will be open, and passage back through the Garden Room toward East Doors / parking lot is welcome.)

- Bathrooms are available, as our elevators and the North door.

What to Expect: Worship Service

- Services is being increased to 45min+ as of June. For the time being, the worship task force and Music/Worship are still assessing guidance about congregational singing, communion, and childcare/nursery. As the approach to these elements change, we will communicate with the congregation.

- Westminster Staff will be available for conversation and greeting at the exits based on their personal comfort level and staff vaccination schedules.

- No individual (church member or staff person) will be required to attend Sanctuary Worship at this time.

Other Information

Background (full version of this section available at westminsterlincoln.org)

- These guidelines were revised and/or developed by the Westminster Worship Task Force (comprised of Westminster members representing the medical, county government and LPS communities as well as Session, Worship & Music and Buildings and Grounds) and approved by Session in March 2021. Guidelines were revised following CDC and Lincoln/Lancaster guidance and changes related to fully vaccinated individuals, along with the Biblical call to love our neighbors and look out for the interest of others before our own, in May 2021.
- In mid-March, members of the Worship Task Force 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.