

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CROMWELL
WELCOME HOME GUIDELINES**

JUNE 21ST, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Reopening the church after being closed to the public for over 3 months is bringing out mixed emotions with many individuals. There are those who are saying, “It’s about time” while there are others who feel very uncomfortable coming back to the church before we have a vaccine.

After much discussion, the Executive Board along with the Deacon Board has made the decision to start up Sunday services on June 21st. Governor Lamont strongly encouraged those over 65 not to go back yet, but to stay home. Our policy is, if you feel good and want to go to church, then come and be with us.

The number one rule of thumb is – **If you don’t feel well or have been exposed to someone with the coronavirus, for the safety of others, please stay home and watch us on Facebook.**

Upon entering the church, you will notice a number of changes.

1. You will only be able to enter the church through the Sanctuary front door unless you are handicapped and special arrangements will be made. All other doors will be locked.
2. Everyone will enter through the right-hand Sanctuary door and will exit through the opposite door upon leaving.
3. We have an infrared thermometer provided by the state to check your temperature on entry.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering and leaving the church.
5. Every two pews will be marked off to remain empty in order to maintain proper physical distancing.
6. Families will be asked to sit together (If you need to, bring your own cushion to sit on).
7. There will be bulletin(s) placed in each available row.
8. All Hymnals, Bibles, and Pew Cushions have been removed from the Sanctuary.
9. All the Hymnal racks have been removed to have the paint removed from them and be shellacked.
10. There will be an Offering box sitting on the communion table. No offering will be received during the service.
11. Two 75” monitors are being installed so that scripture readings and other items can be displayed.
12. Everyone will be asked to wear a face mask during the service. Facemasks will be available to those who don’t have one.

13. Communion: A Deacon will release each row to come forward. Wearing gloves, a Deacon and Pastor Doug will place a piece a piece of bread into participant's extended hand and a small tray with a single cup will be extended for the participant to take and drink. After they drink from the cup, a waste basket will be in the front for them to discard the cup.
14. Unfortunately, there will be **NO choir or congregational singing** during the service. The following is a good rule of thumb: For minimizing the spread of any respiratory virus: Silence is safer than whispering. Whispering is safer than talking. Talking is safer than singing.
15. **ABSOLUTE IMPORTANCE:** There will be no physical touch or fist bumping inside the church.
16. There will be no children services provided at this time.
17. On Monday morning, our sexton will go through the church and sterilize all the pews, bathrooms, door handles and railings, etc. with a disinfectant.
18. We will continue to live stream on Facebook. We will continue to do this for those who are unable to or feel uncomfortable returning to the church at this time so that they can still participate with us. All Facebook posts are accessible via our church website.
19. If you are unable to come or you don't feel comfortable being around others yet and you do not have a smart phone or computer but would like to receive a printed copy of the service, please let Tammy or Pastor Doug know. The following week after the service you will receive a copy of the printed service.
20. The balcony will be marked and only available to able-bodied congregation members, when necessary, to address over-crowding.
21. There will be no coffee hour after the service until further notice.

The Bible says that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love the Lord and walk according to His purpose. I don't know why this has happened, but the real question is not why, but how we will respond as individuals and as the Body of Christ.

We look forward to meeting as a family of God again.

In His Love and Service,

Pastor Doug