



Cranford United Methodist Church

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Date: 7/8/2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We are excited to announce that in-person worship of the Cranford United Methodist Church will resume this Sunday, July 12th @ 9:30AM. Please note the earlier start time which is to maximize the shade available in the outdoor worship area.

Please read through the attached guidelines from our church's in-person worship committee that take into account guidance from the CDC, government, and the annual conference for safe meetings. A video walkthrough will be posted to the church website and Facebook page on Saturday evening to help all visualize the worship experience.

In all that we do, we seek to “do no harm,” as outlined in Wesley’s General Rules for living the Christian life. To that end, the services will continue to be available for online viewing. If COVID or the heat of summer are a concern, please take advantage of the opportunity to attend online. We will attempt to livestream the service this week, but if technical issues occur, we will record and upload the service later in the morning.

As the pandemic continues to develop, we will be constantly evaluating the best way to host worship. It is possible that we may need to change methods quickly based on the spread of the virus. We thank you for your patience and support as we all navigate these uncertain waters together.

We look forward to worshipping in a socially distant way this Sunday!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Cameron and the In-Person Worship Committee

Cranford United Methodist Church

Re-Opening Guidelines – Phase 1

Based on the results of the recent survey on re-opening the church, and with guidance from the bishop and the CDC, Pastor Cameron and church leadership has decided to move forward with creating a space for outdoor worship as Phase 1 of returning to church with a goal of having the **first in-person service on July 12, 2020 at 9:30 am.**

Following the bishop's guidance to do no harm and to protect the most vulnerable among us, we will err on the side of caution and conduct worship services outdoors for the foreseeable future. **Please come as you are comfortable.**

We will adhere to state laws and CDC guidelines.

Phase 1. Worshiping outdoors

Outdoor worship will be limited to a gathering of up to 250 persons as of July 12, 2020, per the Governor's executive order.

Worship will take place outside in a shaded location. Feel free to bring a parasol to provide personal shade if desired. **The service has been moved to 9:30am to take advantage of the available shade.**

Please park your car on the side of the parking lot closest to the library.

The trustees and ushers have designated socially-distanced seating areas for attendees (aka virtual pews.)

What to Bring.

- Please bring your own chair(s).
- Please bring a mask and hand sanitizer. Additional masks and hand sanitizer will be available if you forget to bring yours.
- Please print out and bring the Sunday bulletin with you.
- Bibles and hymnals will not be distributed.

Pathways to follow to the seating area will be clearly marked with directional arrows. Please follow the arrows and direction of the ushers. Please follow the guidance of the ushers to ensure the safety of all members of the congregation.

Please maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between groupings, including the space around the perimeter of your virtual pew.

Please welcome each other by offering a sign of peace, but do not shake hands or hug.

Please wear a mask from the moment you leave your car until you return to your car.

In Case of Rain. In case rain is expected, check online on the church's website cranfordumc.com and check your email. If there is a 50% or greater chance of rain, worship outdoors will **not** take place. Worship will continue to be virtual as it has been in the past several weeks. There is no indoor worship planned at this time.

Restrooms. We will not be opening the restrooms for routine use. However, the restroom near Room 8 has been sanitized and will be available in case of an emergency. Follow the arrows on the ground to safely enter and exit the building. Please wash your hands and make use of the sanitizing supplies provided.

Light switches will be disinfected by the ushers when anyone enters the buildings.

Doors to the building will be propped open to avoid touching handles.

The offering plate will not be passed by the ushers. You may place your offering in the plates near the seating area.

Microphones, instruments and equipment will not be shared.

To avoid spreading the virus, the congregation will not be invited to sing.

Please maintain social distancing in all areas.

Parents, there will be no Sunday school. Please keep your children with you and help them maintain social distancing.

Please take note of the signage around the buildings which provide hygiene advice and reminders.

If you have traveled outside of NJ to one of the states NJ has deemed a hotspot within the past two weeks, please do not attend unless you have quarantined for 14 days.

Please stay home if you are not feeling well, have been exposed to the coronavirus or have any of the following symptoms:

- A fever of 100 degrees or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This Phase 1 reopening plan will be updated if guidance from the CDC or governor changes.