



Guidelines for Gathering to Worship at Neffsville Mennonite Church

Presented by the Elder Leadership Team

June 7, 2020

Colossians 3:14 - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Objective

In a Covid-19 world, provide an opportunity for Neffsville Mennonite Church worshippers to regather on-site in a manner that is safe, respectful, and honoring through appropriate guidelines that serve one another and promote a Christ-like witness to our community.

Plans for Re-Gathering at Neffsville Mennonite Church

Beginning on **Sunday, June 21st**, and following the guidelines listed below, Neffsville Mennonite Church will reopen the sanctuary to watch the pre-recorded worship service video that is also available on-line. This reopening to worship, and watching the Sunday morning worship video together, will continue for a few weeks until we have our new audio and video equipment in service. This equipment is necessary to effectively broadcast our live worship service for those who are not able to attend in person.

Protocol and Guidelines for Re-gathering

1. **Options:** On-site worship at Neffsville Mennonite Church must be understood as optional or supplemental. We love, honor, and respect all persons equally, whether worshiping remotely or worshipping on-site. Our service will continue to be offered on-line.
2. **If sick:** If you or a family member have a cough, slight fever, or, if in the past three weeks were exposed to someone with signs of COVID-19, **PLEASE STAY HOME!**
3. **At-risk individuals:** Persons at risk, persons whose occupations include at-risk exposure, and those persons who are uncomfortable worshipping on-site, are encouraged and blessed to continue worshipping remotely. Older adults may want to consult with their physician or family before participating on-site.
4. **Social distancing:** Please honor and respect the recommended six-foot social distancing guidelines with non-household members while in the church building. Handshakes, hugs, and personal touch are discouraged.
5. **Masks:** On-site worshipers are strongly encouraged to wear masks while inside the building. This is done to love, protect, and respect your neighbor.
6. **Worship seating:** Families from the same household are encouraged to sit together. This will minimize risk while maximizing seating capacity. Some benches will be temporarily closed. If the sanctuary is full, the ushers may seat you in the Fellowship Hall to view the service. Please allow the ushers to assist you in finding a seat.

- 7. Fellowship:** While we encourage a time of fellowship before and after the service, we politely ask that this be done outside the building. Upon entering the building please find your seat as quickly as possible. The ushers will help you enter and exit the building in an orderly fashion.
- 8. Restrooms:** The bathrooms on the main floor will be available for your use. Please use good hygiene practices including washing your hands and using the hand sanitizer stations before and after each use.
- 9. Water fountains and coffee:** The water fountains and coffee station will remain closed for the immediate future.
- 10. Closed areas:** The adult Sunday school rooms (upper level) and the Children's Ministry area (lower level) will remain closed for the immediate future.
- 11. Sunday school/children's ministry:** There will be no on-site Sunday school or children's ministry experiences until further notice. The nursery will be available for parents and infants but will remain unstaffed.
- 12. Greeters:** Please allow an usher or greeter to open the door for you when you enter and exit the building. Hand-shaking is discouraged.
- 13. Bulletins:** Paper bulletins will not be available at this time. Bulletin information will be projected on the screens and available on-line.
- 14. Continued monitoring:** The elders will continue to monitor on-going developments and make modifications to these guidelines as seem appropriate. We realize this is an ever-evolving situation and we ask that you contact us with any concerns you may have.