

## Third St. Church of God Reopening – Frequently-Asked Questions

### **WHEN WILL THIRD STREET CHURCH OF GOD REOPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP?**

Third Street Church of God will reopen for in-person weekly Sunday services beginning Sunday, July 4, 2021 at 11 am.

### **WILL REGISTRATION BE REQUIRED?**

Registration will not be required for attendance. However, we will ask everyone to check-in upon entry by providing your name and phone number.

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND PUBLIC WORSHIP AT THIS TIME?**

In-person worship is open to persons age 12 and older. Persons who are at an increased risk for a severe illness from an infection with COVID-19 are strongly advised to continue virtual worship at home at this time.

### **WILL CHILDREN RETURN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP?**

Since there will be a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons in the congregation, it is strongly recommended that unvaccinated children **NOT** attend public worship at this time. Young children may find it difficult to follow measures designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 such as wearing a mask at all times, maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet, and limiting their movement. In addition, the wearing of masks is not recommended for children age 2 and under because of the risk of suffocation. While children seem to have a lower risk of being infected with COVID-19 and may experience a milder case of an infection compared to adults, they can develop a rare post COVID-19 inflammatory illness known as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). While this is a rare occurrence, it can result in severe illness, serious complications and death.

### **WHAT MEASURES ARE CONGREGANTS BEING ASKED TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL WORSHIPPERS?**

In the interest of protecting the entire congregation (including those vaccinated) everyone is required to:

- Wear a proper mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times. Masks with valves, bandanas and neck gaiters are not permitted.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth, or the front of the face mask
- Wash hands frequently using soap and water or a hand sanitizing solution containing at least 65% alcohol.
- Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet.
- Follow visual cues provided throughout the building to aid in compliance with safety measures.
- Stay at home if sick or feeling unwell.
- Avoid physical contact with other worshippers--no hugging, kissing or shaking hands.

### **WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR CHECKING-IN?**

- The check-in process will take place in administrative lobby (parking lot entrance).
- Worshippers will provide their name and a contact phone number. (A contact number is needed should it become necessary to notify worshippers of a COVID-19 related issue).
- Worshippers will be checked to ensure that a mask is worn and that they are not exhibiting signs and symptoms of a COVID-19 infection.

**WHERE IS THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT TO THE SANCTUARY OR FELLOWSHIP HALL?**

- All worshippers will be asked to enter and exit through the administrative lobby.
- The elevator in the lobby is available for access to the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

**WHAT CLEANING MEASURES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE BUILDING?**

- The building will be professionally cleaned before each Sunday worship service.
- The HVAC ventilation system has been professionally serviced and filters upgraded.

**WHAT SAFETY MEASURES CAN I EXPECT TO SEE WHEN I ARRIVE?**

- Touchless automated hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the building.
- Signs and posters are located throughout the building to promote awareness of the need to practice the 3 Ws: **"Wear a mask. Watch where you stand. Wash hands frequently."**
- Floor markings and signs have been placed to promote physical distancing.
- Frequently touched items such as doorknobs, door handles, and microphones will be sanitized in real time.

**WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN THE SANCTUARY?**

- Seating in the sanctuary has been reconfigured to promote a physical distance of 6 feet between worshippers.
- The first and last two pews and every other pew on each side of the sanctuary are closed for seating.
- Each open pew can accommodate two individuals from different households or multiple family members from the same household.
- Exiting the sanctuary will be a staged process beginning with the rear pews and moving to the front pews with dismissal of one pew at a time. Worshippers will be guided through the exit process by ushers or members of the Safe Return Task Force.
- After the benediction, please remain seated until your pew receives direction to exit.

**WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL?**

- The Fellowship Hall has been reconfigured to promote a physical distance of 6 feet between worshippers.
- Food and beverage stations have been removed from the Fellowship Hall.

**WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN THE WORSHIP FORMAT?**

- The worship format has been designed to provide a touchless worship experience.
- Bibles, hymnals, fans and other shared items have been removed from the pew pockets.
- The distribution of paper bulletins has been discontinued. Bring your own fan if needed.

- The call to worship and scripture readings are projected onto the media screens in the sanctuary. You may bring your own Bible or cell phone for the scripture readings.
- Congregational singing and choirs have been suspended until further notice.
- Music is provided by members of the Praise and Worship Team.
- The use of wind instruments has been suspended until further notice.
- Meet and greet is suspended until further notice so that we can maintain social distancing.
- Verbal testimonies and prayer requests have been suspended until further notice.
- Prayer requests can be submitted by contacting the church office. Urgent prayer requests can be given directly to the Pastor.
- Opportunities for sharing verbal prayer requests and testimonies are available during the Wednesday Word and Prayer Call.
- Offerings are collected using long-handled wire baskets. Electronic giving is encouraged.
- Communion is served in individually prepackaged kits containing the communion elements.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Restrooms on the first floor of the administrative annex are available for one-person use.
- Restrooms in the Fellowship Hall are available for two-person use.
- Touchless automatic hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the building.
- Water fountains are sealed off from use until further notice. You may bring bottled water for your personal use.
- Food and beverage services are suspended at this time.

Third Street Church of God will continue to follow the guidance of the District of Columbia for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and will make necessary adjustments accordingly.