**Sample Drive-In Worship Plan with a Covenant**

This is a sample plan to assist you in thinking about your church plan.

Your church will want to create a plan that is custom for your particular situation.

We the people of Main Street United Methodist Church covenant with one another to protect each other’s health and safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19. In the spirit of John Wesley’s proclamation of “Do no harm” and “Do good” and Jesus’ call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we covenant to the following actions:

* To abide by the directives of the CDC, local and state guidelines, and the Bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference - and his guidance on the extent and ability to open our church campuses and offer in-person gatherings for activities.
* To refrain from attending any activities on the church campus if we are sick with any of the common virus symptoms, believe we have been exposed to someone who is sick, or have attended another activity of 50 or more people in an enclosed setting over the last two weeks.
* To wear a mask at all church gatherings to protect the health of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
* To maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet between ourselves and other members with whom we are not sheltering at home. This means we will not hug, shake hands, or engage in direct physical contact when we are with others in the church or at church-sponsored activities.
* To practice hand washing, using hand sanitizer and other practices to prevent the spread of the virus through touching common surfaces.
* To continue giving to the church as we can and increase our giving if possible, to make sure extra expenses due to cleaning/sanitizing church facilities are covered.
* To inform any guests we bring to church about these measures and secure their cooperation in abiding by them.
* To be patient and gracious with each other as we seek to address the health and safety challenges and the changing information about the spread and nature of the virus.
* To continue these practices until the leaders in the scientific, medical, and leaders in the Desert Southwest Conference all give their “ok” to gather again.

**Drive-In Church Covenant:**

We will offer a drive-in church option along with continuing our zoom worship experiences. This drive-in church will take place at 8 am on Sunday mornings. Our zoom church will continue at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. The main goal for our drive-in church is to allow folks who have not been able to connect technically, reconnect in worship with us. This service will be 35 minutes in length. Communion will be offered on the first Sunday of the month (option 1) with people bringing their own bread and juice from home.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Communion Sunday Order of Worship:** | **Non-Communion Sunday Order of Worship:** |
| * Gathering Music | * Gathering Music |
| * Welcome | * Welcome |
| * Announcements\*\* | * Announcements\*\* |
| * Scripture reading | * Scripture reading |
| * Sermon | * Sermon |
| * Holy Communion | * Benediction and Sending Forth |
| * Benediction and Sending Forth |  |

\*\*Announcements each week will begin with: *"Welcome to Main Street United Methodist Church, we are glad you have joined us this morning!  Before we begin, we have some guidelines to share with you and we ask that you honor them at all times.  This will be a 35-minute worship service.  During this time, we ask the following:*

* *Please do not exit your cars.*
* *Please keep all windows closed.*
* *Our building is not open.  Our bathrooms are not open- if the need arises to use a bathroom, please drive home.*
* *We are requiring these guidelines because we care about you. Our goal is to provide a worship experience on our campus and also protect you and your health during the pandemic.*
* *Other announcements are...*

**Signage:**

We will create a sign at our entrance to share the following information:

* Turn your radio station to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Stay in your car
* worship online at 9:30am. Please email the church office for information.

**Consideration for Homeless Persons:**

Given our stated purpose to reach those who do not have tech, ministry context and the possibility of homeless persons at the service, we will have one Usher whose only purpose is to minister to the homeless. The usher will be masked at all times and wear gloves. We will have a table set up with masks to give homeless persons. We will have 4 metal chairs set up 10 ft apart from each other. If the homeless individual wishes to worship with us they must wear a mask and must remain in a chair for the service, or they will be asked to leave and vacate the property. **This option is not available for our non-homeless worshipers.**

**Restrictions:**

* Main Street UMC building and bathrooms remain closed at all times. Our congregation will be aware to please use bathroom at home before coming to church. Pay extra attention to making sure children use bathrooms at home. If the need arises to use a bathroom, people can leave service and drive home.
* We will not hand out bulletins.
* We will not pass an offering plate from car to car. We encourage you to mail in your offering, use automatic giving, or leave your offering in the basket in the drive as you leave.
* Holy Communion- We will serve Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of the week. We will ask people to bring their own bread/cracker and juice to church that day and share the elements in their own car.
* We will not offer live music. Music will be streamed through the FM transmitter
* The Pastor will be only person setting up/taking down for this worship experience and speaking outdoors. Usher will set up/take down chairs and tables. Pastor and Ushers will always remain socially distanced and wear masks.
* We covenant to not exit our cars for any reason. While we are fully aware that we miss each other, we covenant to do all we can to protect one another. While we have greatly missed in person worship, we promise to be part of the solution and not be a place where people in our congregation we care deeply for can contract this virus.
* We enter into this covenant as the body of Christ, called to love one another as Christ loves us. Our calling as disciples of Christ is to bring healing and wholeness to a hurting world. Our efforts during this pandemic will at all times serve as a model and example to others that we are living out this calling by preventing the spread of Covid-19.
* We will hold a drive- in church worship service at 8 am on Sunday mornings on a week to week trial basis. We will be reporting to our conference each week on our progress. If we are unable to fulfill this covenant, we understand that our drive-in church option will discontinue.
* We understand this option is a way for all of our church friends to stay connected to Main Street UMC and participate in a worshipful experience. We promise to do our part to make sure this option is able to continue for all persons.

Signed on (date) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pastor’s Signature: |  |
| Congregant’s Signature: |  |
| Congregant’s Signature: |  |
|  |  |

**Our Covenant**

A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated

**The People of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ UMC / UMF**

**Theological Foundation:**

**Care for the Other:** The people of God have been called by Christ to share in a deep abiding love for one another, demonstrated in a commitment to love like Jesus, act for justice, and remain united in hope.

**Our Covenant Relationship:** It has long been the history of God’s people to enter into a covenant with God and with one another. A covenant is more than a normal agreement. It is a chosen way of living together in which the people involved freely and voluntarily make binding promises to one another.

**COVID-19 Reality:** We are well aware of the fact that the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. This reality is what calls us to enter into this covenant at this time.

**Our Church Covenant:** We are people who care for one another, and we care for the stranger among us. In love and faith, and with God’s help, we commit to one another to protect each other’s health and safety as we seek to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In the spirit of John Wesley’s proclamation of “Do no harm, do good and stay in love with God,” we covenant to the following actions:

**Do No Harm**

* In accordance with Romans 13, I/we will abide by the directives of the Bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference and his guidance on the extent and ability to open our church campuses and offer in-person gatherings for activities.
* With care for the vulnerable among us, I/we will refrain from attending any activities on the church campus if I am/we are sick with any of the common COVID-19 symptoms, believe I/we have been exposed to someone who is sick, or have attended another activity of 50 or more people in an enclosed setting over the last two weeks.
* Because of the love I/we have for others, within two weeks after attending an activity on the church campus, if I/we test positive for COVID-19, I/we will let church office know of a diagnosis. I/we also understand that the church may keep our identity confidential.
* Considering the health needs of others as being important, I/we commit to wear a face covering at all church gatherings to protect the health of our siblings in Christ.

**Do Good**

* Knowing that there are those people who are unaware they have an active case of COVID-19, in humility I/we pledge to maintain a minimum distance of 6 from other members. This means that as an act of love I/we will not hug, shake hands, or engage in direct physical contact when I am/we are with others in the church or at church-sponsored activities. I/we will find other ways to greet one another with joy.
* Because of my/our commitment to care for others, I/we agree to use good preventive measures, especially the wearing face coverings, in addition to other measures, to prevent the spread of the virus through touching common surfaces.
* As an act of grace toward others, when in-person worship resumes, I/we agree to be seated by in a designated safe distance seat, even if it is not my ‘regular’ seat at church. I/we further covenant not to ask for special treatment or seating accommodations unless physical needs require it.
* In every effort to care for others, when in-person worship resumes, I/we affirm the need to inform any guests I/we bring to church about our covenant and seek to secure their cooperation in abiding by the covenant.

**Stay in Love with God**

* Because I/we believe God is with me/us always, I/we seek to honor my/our faith commitment to God and to the church by continuing to give as I/we can and increase giving, if possible, to make sure extra expenses due to cleaning/sanitizing church facilities are covered. I/we do this also because of an awareness that during COVID-19 some in our community of faith have lost jobs and are struggling financially. Continued giving is an act of love and grace for those who can no longer do so.
* In living the principles found in scripture, I/we commit to be patient and gracious with each other as we all seek to address the COVID-19 health and safety challenges and the changing information about the spread and nature of the coronavirus.

**Acknowledgement and Waiver**

**Grounded in the love of God, I/we acknowledge that the instruction from scripture is that we, as covenant people, deal with disagreements and concerns in grace-filled ways, and, therefore, agree that we accept responsibility for our own choices, and the risk that goes along with them. I/we waive any claim against the church in the event that I/we or my/our children, if any, contract COVID-19.**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signed:** |  |
| **Printed Name:** |  |
| **Signed:** |  |
| **Printed Name:** |  |

Philippians 4:5-7 NRSV

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.