



GUIDELINES

For resuming in-person worship
United Congregational Church of
Westerly, UCC

FIRST AND FOREMOST – IF YOU ARE FEELING SICK, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO WORSHIP!!!

1. These Guidelines were developed from the work of the UCC Westerly Pandemic Response Team and in accordance with the recommendations of the CT Health Department (<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>) and the RI Health Department (<https://reopeningri.com/faith-based-organizations>) in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. You will be asked to sign a receipt confirming that you have received, read and understood these Guidelines before attending worship.
2. In an abundance of caution, we have determined that worship in the sanctuary will be limited to slightly below 25% of our total seating capacity. These numbers may be adjusted upward as changing conditions warrant. This number, which is 35, does not include the ushers or others present for worship leadership. It also reflects what we believe is the optimum number where we can assure social distancing will be possible with ease.
3. “Households” (people living together in one house) can sit together but will still count as individuals. Households and individuals will need to sit in designated pews of their choice. These will be clearly marked,
4. Masks are required to attend worship services. Extra masks will be available if you forget your own.
5. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND WORSHIP for two reasons. First, we need to know how many people to anticipate as accurately as possible. Two, we are required to maintain contact tracing lists. You may make a reservation at any time by calling the church office at 860-599-1226. If you call at a time when no one is in the office just leave your reservation request as a voice mail message. Voice mail will be checked regularly each day. Reservations will be accepted until 9am on Sunday, as long as space is available.
6. To minimize contact with others, we are asking you to enter by the Bell Courtyard door and proceed to your seat as directed by the ushers and following the one-way signs. At the end of the service we are asking that you leave by the Upper Narthex doors, again following the directional arrows.

7. Temperature checks may be required as people arrive for worship. This will be done by the ushers. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances to the sanctuary. The sanctuary itself as well as the bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each week following worship in preparation for the next week.
8. To minimize contact with others, we are asking you to enter by the Bell Courtyard door and proceed to your seat as directed by the ushers and following the one-way signs. At the end of the service we are asking that you leave by the Upper Narthex doors, again following the directional arrows. **THE ONLY AREAS OF THE CHURCH WHICH WILL BE OPEN ON SUNDAY MORNING ARE THE SANCTUARY AND THE BATHROOMS.**
9. All shared worship materials such as hymnals, pew bibles, welcome cards, etc., have been removed from the pews. If you would like to have a bible to reference during worship, kindly bring your own with you and take it with you after worship. If you would like assistance in getting a bible to use, please speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.
10. Prayer shawls have been removed from the sanctuary as well. The prayer candle tables remain but all candles will be lit by the ushers each week on behalf of prayers being offered by individuals. Only ushers may light these candles.
11. Each participant will receive a Worship Resource each week which will contain the prayers and the words to the hymns. *HOWEVER, we will not be singing the hymns nor saying the prayers out loud* as this is a proven way in which the Coronavirus spreads. Instead, you may whisper the prayers very softly into your mask and hum the hymns while focusing on the words. There will be no choir.
12. Offering collection plates will be placed near both the Bell Courtyard and the Upper Narthex Doors and you are asked to place your offering in one of these as you are arriving or leaving. Beginning in September you will also be able to make your financial gifts to the church online through our website.
13. Sadly, we are not able to enjoy Fellowship Time in the Hall as we love to do. But, you may still socialize in the sanctuary as well as in the parking lot, maintaining social distance, at the conclusion of worship.
14. Our worship services will continue to be livestreamed through *Facebook Live* even after we return to in person worship. Therefore, we urge everyone who is in a high risk group for Coronavirus (age 65 or over, undergoing cancer treatment, have an autoimmune disease like diabetes, have a respiratory condition like asthma or COPD) to continue to join us for worship from the safety of your home.
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15. Please note we will only be celebrating Communion virtually until we emerge from all Coronavirus restrictions. Communion will be celebrated virtually at 9am on the first Sunday of every month.



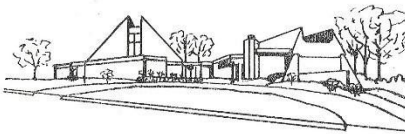
860-599-1226.

16. Rev. Ruth loves to receive prayer requests for worship as always. The Prayer Books will NOT be available but you may call, text or email her with your prayer requests on her cell phone, 401-663-7934. Or leave them on the church voice mail at

Uccw.09.01.2020

RECEIPT for GUIDELINES
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United Congregational Church of
Westerly, UCC

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the above referenced Guidelines which I have read and understood. I agree to abide by the Guidelines as articulated therein.



Name Printed: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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