Trinity United Methodist Church Big Stone Gap: Worship Services and Small Group Protocols

***Our Permission Steps Outdoor services and Drive-in services are permitted as long as proper social distancing is established and maintained at all times. The District Superintendent will review your plan for these services, based on the guidelines listed below and then give their permission for such services. In the opinion of some medical personnel, the outdoor service may be the better alternative because it allows for wider spacing. The following guidelines must be used if offering either style of worship.***

The Color Blaze on the Pulpit Communicates the COVID-19 Risk Level and Place of Worship Service.

* 1. COVID Risk Level Awareness of Wise County Virginia. <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>:
     1. Green: Less than 1 case per 100,000 people (Indoor Sanctuary Worship with COVID Protocols.)
     2. Yellow: 1-9 cases per 100,000 people (Indoor Sanctuary Worship with COVID Protocols.)
     3. Orange: 10-24 cases per 100,000 people
     4. Red: Greater than 25 cases per 100,000 people.

Trinity’s Space for Outdoor Worship

***Determine the space needed to accommodate the service. Will your yard or parking lot accommodate social distancing (6 feet or more) so you can leave spaces between household units or parking spots as applicable?***

1. The Lower Yard of Trinity’s Parsonage.
2. Park Vehicles on 1st Street, the Church Parking Lot, or the alley between the Church, Parsonage, and The District Parsonage.
3. Worshippers shall bring a Lawn Chair.
4. The Outdoor Service will begin at 10 am.
5. Using “marking paint” an “x” designates a space for one person or a group. Groups and individuals shall sit 10 feet apart in all directions.
6. Congregational singing is not allowed.
7. **Face Mask are Required for all worship services. If you do not have one face mask and hand sanitizer are available upon request.**
8. Restrooms are available in the Church Fellowship Hall. (Please use the provided sanitizer before and after use.) The Church Custodian will clean restrooms and doors prior to each Sunday Service.

Service Method of Broadcast

***Decide if you will use an FM transmitter or a PA system. • Ensure members are always only with persons from the same household or remain in their vehicles as applicable to the service. • Use of lawn chairs or blankets on the ground during an outdoor service are allowed as long as social distancing is followed. If it is a drive-in service, people must remain in their vehicles at all times to maintain proper social distancing. They are encouraged to roll windows down at least occasionally to ensure air flow inside the vehicle.***

1. When available we will use a portable PA system.

***Check with local law enforcement and notify them of the service.***

1. A copy of this approved plan shall be given to the Town Manager.

***Check with your insurance carrier for any special requirements.***

1. Southern Mutual has no special requirements.

***Make sure noise levels are kept to a minimum and be respectful of any neighbors.***

1. We are meeting outdoors at Trinity’s Parsonage Lower Yard for the following reasons.
   1. The yard gives us more space than the Church yard.
   2. The open space offers respect for our neighbor’s auditory space.
   3. The Carport offers more room in case of bad weather.
   4. The Lawn is cooler than the Church parking lot.
   5. There are fewer neighbors surrounding the parsonage yard.

Record of Attendance

Again, it is absolutely essential each church develop a method to record attendance and a protocol for notifying the local health department and their district superintendent if someone in attendance tests positive for COVID-19. If a positive case is confirmed, the church must contact their District Superintendent to discuss next steps.

1. We have a Master Attendance Roll. One person each week is designated to record attendance and obtain names, addresses, and phone numbers of all visitors.

Tithes and Offerings

***Develop a way to receive a “touch-less offering.”***

* + *One Offering Plate shall be placed on a table in front of the portable pulpit.*
  + *We have installed a locked Drop Box on the side of our building. It is located in the alley between the Church Building and the Toney’s house. Its location allows it to be accessed from vehicles. Tithes and Offerings shall be removed from the Drop Box 3 times per week by the Church Secretary or Finance Secretary.*
  + Mail in offerings to Trinity UMC, 203 E First Street South **Big Stone Gap VA** 24219. Attention: Joyce Palmer
  + Electronic giving at [www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org): <https://holston-reg.brtapp.com/ChurchOffering>
  + *Your bank offers Auto Draft. This is a convenient and COVID safe means of giving to Trinity UMC*

Develop a Communication Plan to notify your members of the service time and guidelines.

* 1. Outdoor Worship: 10 am when Risk Level is Orange or Red
  2. Indoor Worship 11 am when at Risk Level Green or Yellow
  3. COVID Risk Level Awareness of Wise County Virginia. <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>:
     1. Green: Less than 1 case per 100,000 people (Indoor Sanctuary Worship with COVID Protocols.)
     2. Yellow: 1-9 cases per 100,000 people (Indoor Sanctuary Worship with COVID Protocols.)
     3. Orange: 10-24 cases per 100,000 people
     4. Red: Greater than 25 cases per 100,000 people.

The Risk Level Color Blaze will be displayed on the Pulpit. When we move from Outdoor Worship to Indoor Worship or the reverse a Dial My Call message will be sent to the congregation on Friday prior to Sunday Services.

Social Distancing Protocols for Outdoor Worship

* + *All persons attending corporate Outdoor Worship will wear mask, sanitize their hands, and practice social distancing.*
  + *Special Music: Those singing shall distance themselves at least 12 feet from the congregation. Singers will remain 10 feet apart. Before joining the congregation, the singer will put on their mask and sanitize their hands.*
  + *Lectors/Speakers: May remove their mask once standing 10 feet from the congregation.*
  + *Persons refusing to wear mask, sanitize their hands, and comply to Trinity’s Approved COVID-19 Plan shall be directed to our Online worship opportunities.*

***Approvals:***

***Church Council Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Lay Leader: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Trustees Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Lay Delegate to Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***District Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***