

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sharing Hope from the Heart of the Highlands

Returning to worship at Highland Presbyterian

As Highland Presbyterian Church begins to make plans for our eventual return to the sanctuary, we have two decisions to make. First - *when*? When do we reopen the sanctuary to worshipers? Second, *how*? How will we ensure that our return is done in ways that build up the Body and show love for neighbor—all of our neighbors?

Governor Beshear has legally cleared Kentucky houses of worship to reopen for in-person worship and work as early as Wednesday, May 20, 2020. However, we here at HPC are waiting a bit longer.

We would like to get a sense of who among you will return for worship in the sanctuary when we open it back up again. Your safety is of paramount importance to us. As such, ***even when we do open the sanctuary back up, services will still be streamed online for those who would like to hold back.***

Please take a moment to tell us your thoughts and concerns about reopening the building and resuming worship in the sanctuary.

It is important to note that when we reopen, we will not be able to offer childcare, and there will be no Bible Buddies or Sunday School. That said, when we reopen....

- I will be there
- I think I will wait a while
- I'm not coming for a long time
- It depends on when we reopen
- I don't know

What concerns do you have regarding reopening?

- I worry about my health
- I worry I will bring the virus back to someone I live with
- I'm concerned for the health of others who might come to church when they shouldn't
- I worry about the health of HPC staff
- Other
- I have no concerns about reopening

The Session is carefully reviewing guidelines developed by the governor's office, PC(USA), Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, and the Kentucky Council of Churches. The list of possible to changes to worship in the next question are based on those guidelines.

What precautions can Highland put into place that would make you feel safe returning to the building? *If you have no opinion on any of these, simply skip it.*

	<i>Must happen before I would return</i>	<i>Would make me feel safe but not necessary</i>	<i>I th</i>
Require masks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Hand sanitizer stations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Temperature checks before entering building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Block off every other pew or assign seats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Set up one-way traffic entering and exiting the building and sanctuary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Discourage shaking hands and physical touch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Using a new method of collecting offerings (no passing of the plate)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
No singing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
No communion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Special worship times for vulnerable populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Taking reservations to control attendance numbers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

What worship time do you usually attend?

- 9:30am
- 11:00am

Would you be willing to attend a worship service at a different time than you typically attend to allow people to be more spread out in the sanctuary?

- Yes
- No, but I am fine with watching worship online until there are no limits on attendance
- No, I want to go back to my normal worship time in the sanctuary as soon as possible
- It depends on the time

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, **older adults and**

people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Based on what the CDC knows now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- [People 65 years and older](#)
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

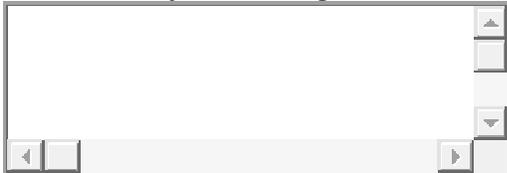
People of all ages with [underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled](#), including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Do you fall into any of these high-risk categories?

- Yes
- No

Please list any other thoughts or concerns you have about reopening in the space below.



Thank you all for being patient, and thank you for all the wonderful creative ways you have devised to remain in community during this time of social distancing. Keep checking in on your neighbors, keep joining us in our many opportunities to connect online, and we look forward to meeting again in person, in safety, and in love.

Someday we will get back into our building. But don't think of this as "returning to church." *We* are the church, returning home.