



Return to In-Person Worship – Frequently Asked Questions
North Olmsted United Methodist Church
As of May 13, 2021

When will NOUMC return to in-person worship?

The church currently plans to resume in-person Sunday morning worship beginning May 23, 2021. This depends somewhat on any emerging COVID-19 guidance from the State of Ohio, so please watch for communications from the church in the coming weeks.

Will NOUMC continue to provide live-streamed worship when in-person worship resumes?

Yes. The in-person worship services will be live-streamed simultaneously on the NOUMC YouTube channel. Those who choose not to, or who cannot, attend in person are invited join us on-line. The services will also continue to be recorded for viewing beyond Sunday mornings.

Do I need to wear a mask? Will everyone wear a mask?

Yes, during this phase. Whether vaccinated or not we request that everyone wear a mask from the time you exit your car until you return to it after worship has ended.

Will Pastor Hoyte wear a mask?

Yes, Pastor Hoyte and the other worship leaders will wear a mask when close to others but not when they are speaking from the pulpit or lectern, or leading the service from a safe distance.

Will there be singing in the pews? Will there be a choir?

No. None of us, neither the choir nor the congregation, will be singing at this time. This is in accordance with leading safety practices. Any special music offered will be pre-recorded.

Will childcare be available? Will it be staffed?

The Nursery and Toddler rooms will be available for any family who desires to use it. There is a new television monitor in the Toddler Room on which worship may be viewed. Please note however, that there will be no nursery attendant available for now. Our hope is that staffed childcare will resume in the Fall.

Can I sit next to my friends?

Yes. However, please allow two open seats between family/friend groups. Seating for groups of 2, 3, or 4 are clearly marked in our sanctuary.

Will there be Passing of the Peace?

Passing of the Peace will occur from our seats. We will not be traveling around the sanctuary at this time, to keep everyone safe.

How will the offering be handled?

We encourage you to continue to send your offering to the church in the same way you have been throughout this past year. Ushers will have an offering plate available as you exit the sanctuary for those who bring offerings to the church.

How is the Sanctuary being cleaned?

The church custodian will be attentive to cleaning the inside of the building before and after Sunday mornings with special focus on the sanctuary, fellowship hall, nursery, and restrooms in the hallways across from the prayer chapel.

Will there be coffee and pastries? Fellowship before or after the service?

No, there will not be a coffee hour for fellowship at this time. We encourage you to greet your church friends before or after worship outdoors near the parking lot.

How will Communion be offered?

Pastor Hoyte will provide specific instructions regarding this sacrament as we gather on the first Sundays of the month. Pre-packaged individual communion sets will be made available at this time.

Will I use a hymnal? Bulletin?

Bulletins will be available via email (should you wish to print one at home) and on a music stand as you enter the sanctuary. Hymnals will be under your seat as before. Please note that all announcements, hymn lyrics, prayers, and responses will be projected above the altar so you may be paperless if you choose.

Will I be on camera?

The sanctuary camera will be focused on the pastor, liturgist, or other worship leaders. It will not be aimed at any church members. If you are seated near the altar, there is a chance that the back of your head may be seen.

Will there be joys and concerns?

Yes, but not requested verbally during the service as in the past. Prayer cards will be available on a sign-in table as you enter the church. Please write your joys and concerns on a prayer card and place them confidentially in the box on the table as you enter the church. One of the ushers will then give the cards to Pastor Hoyte or to whoever is leading worship before the time of prayer.

Will we use the attendance pad?

Attendance pads will be on tables to enable you to sign in as you enter the church. Pads will not be passed through the pews at this time. Ink pens and hand sanitizer will also be available near the pads.

What time will the doors open to enter the church?

The church doors will be open approximately 20 minutes prior to worship. Please allow extra time to safely record your attendance and any prayer requests before taking your seats. Once in your seats, to keep everyone safe, we ask that you please refrain from moving around the sanctuary.

Will the restrooms be available before and after the service?

Yes. The restrooms across from the prayer chapel will be open before, during and after the service. Please note that the education wing, including the restrooms located there, will not be open on Sunday mornings for at least a few weeks.

Are other groups using the church?

Currently, one AA group is using the church during the week. Most NOUMC committees and ministry teams are still meeting via ZOOM for now, but we expect more may begin meeting at the church in the coming months. No other groups, however, will be at the church during worship times.

Which entrance will we use?

Only the Main Entrance will be used for entering and exiting worship on Sunday mornings. The education wing entrance by the office and parking lot will not be open.

How is the church enhancing ventilation in our worship area?

Ceiling fans will be running at a slow/medium speed and the side door in the sanctuary facing the church driveway will be open slightly (weather permitting) for increased ventilation.

Will the liturgist be masked?

The liturgist will remove her/his mask ONLY when speaking from the lectern. A clear face shield is available for the liturgist's use at the lectern, as desired.

How will we safely exit after worship is over?

Family groups will leave the sanctuary safely distanced, beginning with the last rows and advancing to the front rows. Please remain in your seat until your turn to exit. Please be patient when exiting and refrain from crowding other worshipers.

Will Pastor Hoyte greet us after worship?

Yes, Pastor Hoyte will greet everyone in the Fellowship Hall as they exit the sanctuary. Please maintain safe distances as you wait to greet the pastor.

Questions? Contact us.

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