

# Pilgrim Worship Updates

Phase 3  
Begins Wed., May 5, 2021



## Covid 19 Protocol and Procedures for Worship at Pilgrim

Worship Changes – As Pilgrim continues to make changes for worship in the sanctuary, it is necessary for all worship participants to be aware of the procedures and protocols put in place to offer a meaningful worship experience in a safe environment. Please read through these changes as you participate in worship and other activities at Pilgrim.

- **Mask Recommended but Optional Worship Services** – Pilgrim will begin to offer two “mask recommended but optional” worship options beginning Wednesday, May 5. The two options are **Wednesday -7:00pm** and **Sunday (GB) - 7:45am**. For the following reasons we are offering these two new options: 1.) attendance is lower at these services so distancing is easier, 2.) they provide a contemporary and traditional format, 3.) several of our members have difficulty wearing a mask for the duration of the service and have requested a mask free worship option, 4.) people will still be asked to wear a mask as they enter and exit the building and whenever they are in close proximity with others, 5.) risk levels have reduced significantly due to many people being vaccinated and lower levels of Covid cases in Brown County. We are hesitant to add other services immediately due to the number of people in those services and space issues (Suamico), but our board of Elders is already planning for our next phase of changes. They’ll address the possibility of opening other services or providing mask free areas in services at their May meeting for implementation in June/July.
- **Music Changes** – Worship leaders will now have the option to lead in singing without a mask, but will need to practice social distancing. Congregational worship participants will still need to wear masks according to the schedule noted above. The desire for people to sing in worship, challenged by the encouragement of limited singing to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, leads us to the promotion of wearing masks in worship to accommodate both goals. Hymnals and Bibles will return to the sanctuary as of Wed., May 5. The new research about the low possibility of Covid spread from hand contact enables this change. We will continue to sanitize the sanctuary between each service as an extra safety precaution.
- **Congregational Survey** – On the weekend of May 9, Pilgrim will offer a congregational survey in the bulletin, at the welcome center and mailed/emailed upon request. This survey will allow members to share input about our present Covid response plans and our desire to offer a timely and clearly communicated multi-phase (we’re calling it a baby steps approach) response to changes in worship and other protocols at Pilgrim. Please complete your survey by Sunday, May 23 so that the Elders can utilize your commentary as they consider then next phase of changes at their meeting on Monday, May 24.
- **Communion** – Communion will still be offered on Wednesday mornings (9:30am) and evenings (7:00pm – Worship on Wednesday) throughout the month of May. Communion in worship on the weekends will continue to be offered in a “file by/continuous” fashion with social distancing measures.
- **Online Worship for High-Risk People** – Pilgrim has considered a special service for our high-risk population. Wanting to encourage the greatest safety for our high-risk members, this population is encouraged to continue to worship online for greatest safety. If you desire a special service to be designated for high-risk needs, you are encouraged to share that request in the survey mentioned above. Pilgrim intends to sustain online worship as a regular part of our ministry to serve those with Covid concerns, shut-ins and others who are now worshipping regularly at Pilgrim from remote locations.
- **Church & School Coordinated Efforts** – One final note regarding our Covid response protocols is the reminder that we always strive to do our best to coordinate church and school ministry. Seeking to align our church as school response plans is a continuous factor as we determine what changes to make.