



ROYSE CITY

First United Methodist Church

We at Royse City First United Methodist Church are excited about safely reopening our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings for worship. We've put much thought into the best, safest practices for resuming in-person worship. Maintaining flexibility to improve, these are the guidelines we will follow upon reopening:

Worship Overview

- For Phase 1 on August 2 and 9, we will have one blended worship experience at 10:00.
- For Phase 2, beginning August 16, we will have two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 am allowing time for cleaning between services.
- For Phase 2 opening: with the majority of our at-risk population typically attending our traditional service, we will temporarily move that service from 11:00 to 8:30 to allow first, safest access to that population. The modern service will move temporarily to 11:00.
- Arrival at church is permitted as early as 8:00 am for traditional service and 10:30 am for modern worship to allow a "trickle in" arrival.
- Those who are aged 65+ or in a high-risk category are encouraged to continue worshipping with us from home.
- Anyone experiencing fever or sickness should worship from home.
- Social distancing of six feet will be observed by all at all times.
- All buildings outside of the Sanctuary will remain closed on Sunday mornings. The only exception might be to open Wesley Hall for high-risk people to worship separate from the rest, using simulcast from Sanctuary on screens.
- As we open in stages, families will be invited to worship in the Sanctuary based on participant results from the Reopening Survey. We will contact families who many attend each week in Phases 1 & 2.
- Coffee and snack service will be suspended.
- Hymnals, Bibles, and pew cushions will be removed from the sanctuary temporarily
- The nursery will be closed until we know it's safe to reopen.

Entering Worship

- Doors to the Sanctuary will stay open for arriving members and guests to minimize touching handles.
- Only two doors to the Sanctuary will be open on Sunday mornings: Wesley Hall and Bell Tower Entrances. This will streamline processes and contribute to the safety of all.
- Greeters with masks and gloves will maintain social distance, welcome people, and encourage hand sanitizing or washing before entering the Sanctuary.
- In order to ensure the health of those attending worship, we will require masks be worn within the church buildings until further notice. While we respect the decision of those who do not wear masks, we ask that they join us online until we can all worship without masks.
- Offering plates will be placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary rather than passed during worship.
- Only two doors at the beginning and end of worship will be open to optimize safe pedestrian flow.
- Ushers will direct families to sit in designated pews, which will also help with pedestrian flow/distancing.
- Family units may sit together.
- Families will be spaced six feet or more apart in pews. Every other pew will be utilized, with families sitting on alternate sides of pews to increase distancing. Front pews will remain open.

- The two pews flanking the back walls of the Sanctuary will be reserved for guests that arrive. Anticipating they might not understand the phased reopening, we will be prepared to warmly welcome them.
- We ask that social distancing be maintained outside the Sanctuary in the event there's a wait to enter.
- Instead of passing out busy bags to children in the Sanctuary, we ask that parents/guardians bring activities of their own to busy their children during the service. We will have extra disposable busy bags and activities to share with the children of guests.
- On Communion Sundays, pre-packaged fellowship cups (Communion juice and wafers) will be shared by greeters at the doors upon entering the Sanctuary.

During Worship

- Physical contact is not allowed. Handshakes, hugs, etc. should wait until a later date when it's safe to do so.
- Rather than sharing printed bulletins, everything needed for worship will be shared on worship screens.
- We will sing during the service, but only with masks on. The worship leaders will be positioned further away from congregants.
- On Communion Sundays, the liturgy will be shared at the end of the service so that participants can discard used single-serve cups as they exit the service.
- For now, children will stay in seats for Young Disciple Time. There will be no dismissal for Children's Church.

After Worship

- Dismissal after benediction will be done by ushers one row at a time, maintaining strict distancing and safe traffic flow.
- We will sanitize the Sanctuary to include wiping down pews, doors and door handles, microphones, A/V equipment, and anything else utilized.
- Bathroom toilets, sinks, and door handles will be sanitized before and after every service and use.
- Small groups will continue to meet off-campus via Zoom.

We hope you'll continue to join us for worship online, or perhaps in person soon, as we celebrate the goodness of God. You belong here: worshipping together, serving with heart, and growing in faith.

Prior to phased reopening

We will still have youth and adult classes meet via zoom and if adult classes would like to have backyard gatherings for classes they are welcome to do that while practicing Social Distancing Guidelines.

Scouting Ministry - Cub Scout Dens and BSA Patrols can meet off-campus in parks or leaders' backyards, Scouts may participate in BSA off-campus camps or events. Our hope is that we can allow BSA programs back into the building during phase 2 below.

Phases for reopening. (See chart below)

We are not certain how long each phase will last, but we are planning for a minimum of four weeks for Phase 2. Additionally, it is not yet known whether some of these phases might be combined, or whether some aspects may be moved from one phase to another. We are all remaining fluid and prayerful. After all, we are essentially making this up as we go, soliciting as much wisdom as possible.

Phase 1 (2 weeks)	Phase 2 (min. 4 weeks)	Phase 3 Possible additions	Phase 4 Possible additions	Phase 5 Possible additions
Blended in-person worship at 10:00	Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 in Sanctuary using Wesley Hall as overflow			
Communion liturgy offered during worship with fellowship cups passed out upon entry.				
Praise team practice with social distancing				
		Sunday evening UMYF		
		Committee Meetings in Wesley Hall for physical distancing		
		Scout Pack and Troops can start meeting again		
			Sunday School for all ages	
			Mid-week classes	
			Nursery	J.A.M. programming
				Outside rental groups
				Choir