



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, beginning September 6, we will resume our two worship services at 8:30 (modern) and 11:00 (traditional.)
- Arrival at church is permitted as early as 8:00 am for the modern service and 10:30 am for traditional 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 overflow, using simulcast from Sanctuary on screens.
- 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

- We ask that social distancing be maintained outside the Sanctuary in the event there's a wait to enter.
- 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.
- Attenders may choose a wristband to indicate their interaction comfort level while in the Sanctuary (red=very cautious; yellow= open to distanced conversation; green=okay with elbow bumps, etc.)
- Offering baskets will be placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary rather than passed during worship.
- Ushers will assist with opening doors to minimize touch.
- Families should space themselves 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. Pews will be marked with white signs indicating which rows will be available for seating. Please note which end of the pew is marked, and sit on that end to help with spacing.
- Please be extra accommodating with guests. Make sure they have a seat in the Sanctuary.
- 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 discouraged.
- 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.
- 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.
- The nursery and Children's Church will resume in Phase 2 (they're not open quite yet.)

After Worship

- Please maintain six feet between families as you exit pews. If you'd like to visit with others, please move outside or to an area where traffic doesn't 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. If adult small groups would like to meet off campus, they are welcome to do so while practicing social distancing,

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

Phases for reopening. (See chart below)

We are uncertain how long each phase will last, but we are planning for a minimum of four weeks for Phase 1. 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.

Phase 1 (minimum 4 weeks)	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
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 and small groups may meet in Wesley Hall for physical distancing		
	Scout Pack and Troops can start meeting on campus again		
		Sunday School for all ages in regular rooms	
		Mid-week classes	
		Nursery	
			J.A.M. programming
			Outside rental groups
			Choir