



INDEPENDENT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**GUIDELINES FOR WEDDING, FUNERAL and BAPTISM SERVICES**

June 17, 2020

The following are the current guidelines for guests and other family members attending wedding, funeral or baptism services at Independent Presbyterian Church.

1. **Number of Guests:** 25 or fewer guests will be allowed in the sanctuary for a wedding, funeral or baptism service.
2. **Requirements for Guests:**
  - a. Social Distancing:
    - i. All guests must maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons from different households.
    - ii. No seating is allowed in the first pew of the sanctuary, which should remain vacant at all times.
    - iii. All guests must sit spaced out at least every other pew with at least two vacant seats between guests of different households on the same pew.
  - b. Masks: All guests over the age of two (2) must wear masks while inside the sanctuary (with the exception of a bride/groom during a wedding ceremony or parents/child in a baptism ceremony).
  - c. Singing: While a soloist may be allowed, no congregational or guest singing is permitted due to the increased risk of transmission presented.
  - d. Obligations of Guests Prior to Arrival: All guests are expected to exercise precautions prior to arrival to reduce the risk of virus transmission. These precautions include, among other things, the following:
    - i. taking their own temperatures before leaving home, which should not exceed 100.4 degrees (Fahrenheit).

- ii. washing their hands with warm water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home;
- iii. using the restroom before leaving home as church restrooms may not be available for use; and
- iv. using personal hand sanitizer upon arrival.

Attendance of people 65 or older or others especially at risk is discouraged. Anyone who has been sick or living with anyone who has experienced symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat or other known symptoms) should **NOT** attend the service.

- e. Acknowledgement of Exposure Risk: All guests understand and acknowledge that COVID-19 is a public health risk that can result in serious illness or death and exposure can occur despite precautions taken. All guests and other persons attending or participating in a service voluntarily assume all risk of exposure.
3. **Electronic Bulletins**: The church will provide an electronic form of bulletin for the service, which may be printed and distributed by family members to guests.
  4. **Florists**: Florists are welcome to deliver flowers for a service after coordinating with church staff.
  5. **Wedding Photographs**: Wedding photographs in the sanctuary may be taken prior to or following the service. All guests and other participants must follow the requirements set forth above for social distancing and, if clergy is present, masks.
  6. **Nursery**: The church nursery will not be available for use. Guests with young children should make childcare arrangements outside of the church or plan to bring the children to the service. Children present at the service will be included in the guest limitation number above.
  7. **Sign-in Registry**: Sign-in books are not permitted because the pen is a frequently touched item.
  8. **Additional Requests or Instructions of Clergy or Church Staff**: All guests and other persons participating in the service are expected to follow any additional requests or instructions made by the clergy or church staff.
  9. **Baptisms**: Parents will hold the child at all times. Masks are not required for the parents, child or minister.

Because of the fluid nature of state and local requirements and recommendations relating to COVID-19, these guidelines are subject to change without notice. Any exception to the foregoing guidelines must be approved in advance by the church.