

Frequently Asked Questions: Reopening St. Giles Presbyterian Church – UPDATE August 27, 2020

1. When will the church reopen for worship? Is there a point to indicate it may be time to reopen?

We hope to open the church for in-person worship September 20th. We continue to monitor the Positive Case Test Rate for Clay County, which can be found on Florida's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard. When the Positive Case Rate is at or below 5% for a sustained period and other data shows positive trends, we will reopen if we can do so safely.

Opening safely means that we collectively observe reasonable measures to protect ourselves and others. These are described in the following paragraphs in more detail. The two most basic measures we will have in place are a requirement to wear masks, and observe social distancing. If you do not wish to wear a mask or maintain social distancing, corporate worship is not the best option for you at this time.

2. When the church does reopen, will there be some type of health screening?

The answer is YES. It is important that we take every reasonable precaution to protect the health and well-being of our church family.

Each person that enters the church will see signs asking:

- Do you have a fever or are you feeling sick?
- Have you or anyone in your household been diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past two weeks?
- Do you or does anyone in your home have flu-like symptoms?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" corporate worship is not the best option at this time. If the answer to all the questions is "no", then you may proceed into worship.

A temperature check, identical to the current practice at most doctor's offices, clinics, and other places will be performed. This is simple and touchless. If the reading is 100 degrees or higher, you will be asked to refrain from corporate worship.

Masks will be required, with no exceptions. We will encourage you to bring and wear your own favorite if you have one. If you do not have a mask, one will be made available.

3. When I come to worship, what should I expect?

We will observe Social Distancing recommendations during worship services. These are well known to all of us – 6 feet apart.

An usher will guide you to a pew. Please understand the health and safety of everyone in the congregation is a very high priority for us. You will be seated in a pew following the seating plan the ushers have been given to maintain safe distancing. Families will be seated together. Although you may have a favorite pew or seating location we will not be able to accommodate it. We will ask you to co-operate with this change.

The number of people permitted to be in the Sanctuary at one time may be limited by Florida or Federal guidelines. If so, seating will be on a first come, first seated basis.

4. Will there be changes to the worship services?

When we resume in person worship, most of what you have come to love about the worship service you attend will still be in place if social distancing can be maintained, but there will be changes.

- People may not congregate in the Narthex prior to or during the service.
- There will be no choir in the sanctuary, however there will be other special music.
- We will not have a time of greeting.

- Hymnals and pew bibles have been removed. The words to hymns and scripture passages will be in the bulletin.
- Communion will not be celebrated by intinction as we have done in the past.
- We will not pass offering plates, however we will have an offering plate at the exit.
- The pastors will not greet you after the service.
- People may not congregate in the Narthex after the service.

5. How will exiting the service be handled?

We have all been at weddings where the bride and groom left the service and then the ushers released the congregation pew by pew. This will be the case with worship. The ushers will release the congregation in an orderly fashion so that appropriate distances can be maintained until members have exited the building. Again, the ushers will be there to guide you out just as they guided you in.

6. What if I need to use the restrooms?

There will only be one set of restrooms open: the ones in the narthex. There will be no access to the rest of the campus beyond the sanctuary.

7. Will all the services on Sunday still be held like before?

No. The 8:30 service has been suspended until further notice.

8. Will the Nursery be provided?

There will be no Nursery provided at the present time.

9. What about Sunday School?

Sunday School before and during the Worship service has been suspended until further notice.

10. What if I do not want to return to worship right away?

That is a personal decision that each person must make for themselves. We will continue to Live Stream the service on Sunday Morning. You have the option to watch it on Facebook or through a link on our website, www.stgilesfl.org.

11. What about Fellowship after church and other activities?

There will be no after Worship Fellowship or activities for the remainder of the year.

12. What is Drive-In Church?

Drive-In Church is simply another option to experience Worship. We simulcast the Live Stream service through an FM transmitter. If you decide to come to Drive-In Church - *Follow the signs*. We will direct you *where* to park so that you can listen to the service on your vehicle's radio.

The buildings are still off limits; however we can allow use of the restrooms if needed. We have volunteers in lime green vests to direct where to park, provide you with a bulletin, and answer any questions.