Communicate the importance of personal hygiene.
Washing hands, not touching your face, and coughing or sneezing into a tissue or shirt sleeve are critically important. Provide tissues, no-touch trash cans, soap and water, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Encourage congregants to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and stay home if they have symptoms.

Encourage everyone to wear a face covering.
Encourage everyone to wash their hands as they enter.

Singing, chanting, call and response, and choirs, are activities that are more likely to distribute viral droplets into the air and transmit the virus to others. It is highly recommended that if you participate in these activities that all singers, leaders and congregants wear a mask.

Encourage congregants to use their own personal Bible from home, if necessary.

Do not allow people to place personal items in shared spaces, such as coat rooms.

Clean & disinfect frequently.
Routinely clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces such as handrails, door handles, pews, chair arms, bathrooms and other shared spaces. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant or a bleach solution of 4 teaspoons bleach to one quart water.

Increase ventilation of outside air.

In place of hymnals and Bibles, consider using paper handouts containing portions of the liturgy, which can be taken home or disposed of after services.

Remove items that are commonly shared, such as bulletins, newsletters and hymnals.


April 24, 2020
Maintain Physical Distancing

Limit the people attending a service to maintain a 6 foot distance, or more, between family groups. You may need to block off one or two empty rows between groups.

Modify communion practices so that people maintain physical distance in line, and avoid receiving communion from a common tray or cup.

Discourage sharing of food or beverages after services.

Modify the collection of offerings by using a stationary box, mail, or other electronic methods instead of passing a tray or basket.

Cancel non-essential gatherings, such as fellowship gatherings, Sunday school and childcare during services.

Add services to help maintain physical distance while accommodating worshipers.

Protect vulnerable members by encouraging people over 65 or with chronic health concerns to stay home.

Continue to provide live streaming services, or other opportunities to worship from home.

Discourage handshakes, hugs, holding hands, or other practices that require close contact with others.

Communicate with Staff & Congregants

Assign a key person to manage COVID-19 issues within your organization.

Require employees to stay home if they are sick. Leave policies should be flexible and non-punitive. They should also account for employees who must stay home with their children or sick family members.

Post signs in common areas to remind people of the steps you are taking to help keep them safe.

Remind everyone that actions we take today will protect us in the future.