

Ginter Park United Methodist Church
1010 West Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23227

PLAN FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

The following plan for reopening Ginter Park United Methodist Church for in-person worship and additional activities has been developed by the Healthy Church Team (HCT) in consultation with our Pastor and Church Council.

- The first service is being planned for Sunday, September 13, 2020 in the Sanctuary. Initially, there will be only one service at 10 AM. This will be an abbreviated service with prayer, scripture, sermon and music provided by our pipe organ and a soloist who will be located in the chancel area a safe distance from the congregation. No congregational singing will be allowed. Activities for children will be available during the service in our Social Hall. The children and the adult supervisors will wear face masks and maintain social distancing. In addition, a virtual service will be recorded earlier in the week and be available on YouTube. This recorded service will include music by our praise band and the pipe organ.
- A notification will be emailed or mailed to all parishioners around the first of September to provide them information on the structure of the in-person service and the safety requirements for attendance.
- Pre-packaged communion elements will be distributed and consumed off site on Sundays when the sacrament of Holy Communion is observed.
- Face masks must be worn from the time attendees leave their vehicle until they return. They must stay at least 6 feet away from persons who do not reside in their household. Children over the age of two who want to attend the worship service with their family may do so if they wear a face covering and remain with their family at all times. Families with children will be seated near exits in case the child removes their face covering and will not put it back on. This will allow the parent or guardian to remove the child from the service. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under two should not wear face coverings, therefore parents with children under two should make alternate arrangements for them. A child under two being baptized may be in the worship service for that part of the service.
- Entrance to the church will be through the front door of the Sanctuary. The middle double doors will remain closed. The door to the right of the middle doors will be designated as the entrance door and the door to the left of the middle doors will be designated as the exit door. Inside of the Narthex, the middle doors to the Sanctuary will remain closed. Entrance to the Sanctuary from the Narthex will be via the side aisle doors. The door opening from the Memorial Garden will be available for those who wish to use the ramp. Additional directional signage will be placed in the parking lot and in other places as appropriate.
- There will be no entrance through the Side Door.

- An Entryway Health Acknowledgement sign will be placed in the Narthex in conformance with the August 2020 amendment to Section VI. Attachment B of the Virginia Conference Technical Assistance Manual. A greeter will be located near the sign and attendees will be required to read the form, acknowledge that they can affirm “yes” to all of the statements on it and provide their name and contact information to the greeter who will record the name and contact information and provide it to the church office for filing. Social distancing will be required during this entry process.
- Some pews will be designated as not available for seating in order to ensure social distancing. Each household will be seated at least 6 feet away from other worshipers. No handshakes or hugging will be permitted. Face masks and social distancing will be required.
- Ushers will ensure compliance with face mask and social distancing requirements in the Sanctuary. Ushers will be asked to wear disposable gloves. Anyone who will not wear masks will be asked to leave.
- Hymnals, Bibles and other material will be removed from the pew racks and stored.
- Offering plates will be placed in the Narthex. They will not be passed during the service.
- There will be no fellowship time either before or after the service.
- Prior to each in-person worship service, the church will be cleaned in accordance with the “Cleaning Plan” as stated in Section VIII. Attachment A of the Virginia Conference Technical Assistance Manual.

Our church also provides a food pantry and clothes closet as a mission to those in our community and beyond who are in need of extra support. During this pandemic, food and clothing are being distributed for those in our parking lot with face covering and social distancing enforced. Volunteers' health will be monitored.