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*With campuses at Weddington, Marvin, Bonds Grove, and Monroe*

### **In-Person Worship Covenant**

October 11, 2020

9:00 am Traditional Worship Indoor in the Family Life Center

11:00 am Praise & Worship Outdoor (Weather permitting. Then indoor.)

*Jesus said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’<sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40 (NRSV)*

We are called to love God and to love one another. Fulfilling both of these well has been different during the COVID-19 pandemic. We covenant together as the church to embody these commandments in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Love the Lord Your God**

Corporate worship is a vital part of our spiritual lives. On October 11, we will add indoor in-person worship as an option to our outdoor worship and our online worship. We will continue our online worship for the foreseeable future and eventually transition to live streaming when a new normal is established. We encourage you to continue to worship with us online if you have any concerns or hesitation of being physically together.

- Acts 2:42 (NRSV) <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- Luke 4:16 (NRSV) <sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom.
- Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV) <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.

#### **Love Your Neighbor**

We realize we have different comfort levels and health vulnerabilities during this season of our lives. We covenant that if we join together for in-person worship, we will love and respect our neighbor in the following ways:

1. We will worship online if we have been sick or exposed to someone who has been sick over the past 14 days.

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To fulfill our call to be the physical presence of Jesus Christ by worshiping God with passion, intentionally growing in faith, proclaiming the gospel with grace, and humbly serving in love.

2. We will wear masks throughout the indoor worship service acknowledging that my neighbor may not be as comfortable as we may be and they may have vulnerabilities that we desire to protect. Please bring your masks with you. If you are unable to wear a mask for any reason, we invite you to join us for worship online or distanced at our outdoor service.
3. We will socially distance at least 6 feet apart. Please do not rearrange the chairs so we can honor our neighbor.
4. We will wash our hands or use the hand sanitizer stations.

### **Sacred Space**

In order to try to provide a safe worship environment, we will do the following:

1. We will worship in the Family Life Center initially for distancing, sanitizing, and access to restrooms. Chairs will be grouped for families and socially distanced. We look forward to adding worship in the sanctuary when prudent.
2. We will begin with two services and add additional services as needed in order to maintain social distancing.
3. Worship leaders and clergy will lead worship from the stage area maintaining at least 25 feet so we can lead without masks. We will greet the congregation verbally.
4. We will not have congregational singing indoors until deemed safe.
5. We will professionally clean between services which will require at least an hour between services thus explaining the set worship times.
6. Doors will be propped open to minimize common touch points.
7. Offering containers will be available. We will not pass offering plates. We encourage online giving as an act of worship.
8. Services will be shortened to approximately 45 minutes.
9. We will not have coffee and food stations at this time.
10. Children's worship bags will be available. Nursery and children's ministries are TBD.
11. Please register for indoor worship so that we can be as prepared as possible to serve you faithfully. This will assist in contact tracing if needed. This will also help us know when we need to add additional services. A link will be provided each week. You may also click [here](#) to register. Registration does not imply a reservation. Once we reach capacity, we are at capacity.
12. When we reach capacity, we will not be able to invite in more people in order to honor our covenant of social distancing.

We ask for grace and patience. This is a new process and a new day for all of us. As we love one another, please include all of us who are trying to lead faithfully in your love and prayers.