

Return to the Sanctuary F.A.Q.

In-person worship is back at Alamance!

When can I come?

You can return to worship in-person in the sanctuary on **March 14**. On March 7, our Session and Worship and Arts Ministry Team will be in the sanctuary for the service. They will work before and after worship to make sure every safety protocol is in place, to get the sanctuary ready for you. We look forward to having you the following Sunday.

How many people will be able to attend?

We are creating seating sections for **25% capacity**. The exact number of people who can attend depends on how many fill each pew. In the event that all our seating is filled, we will invite you — if you choose — to view the service on a screen in a designated overflow area.

What about Easter, Mother's Day, and Pentecost?

For these three special services in the spring, we will hold outdoor gatherings on the lawn like we did last fall. This allows the greatest number of people to gather at the church safely. In the event of inclement weather, we will worship indoors at **25% capacity**.

Do I need to be vaccinated to attend worship?

Our state and local governments have asked churches to encourage their members to be vaccinated at the earliest available opportunity. As Christ calls us to do, please consider your neighbor as you make your decision about vaccination. We strongly believe this will be the quickest way to put this global pandemic behind us. However, we will not require anyone to be vaccinated to come to church.

Can I sit with a friend or with my extended family?

Yes. You can decide who is in your bubble. But we absolutely insist that you be respectful of other people's bubbles. We protect everyone's freedom to come to worship when we are mindful of those boundaries. To avoid awkwardness or confusion, if you would like to sit together during worship, please discuss it prior to the service.

What do I need to bring?

Everyone in the family needs to wear a mask/face covering while on our campus. Please bring a *Welcome Back Card* with you. If you don't have your *Welcome Back Card*, the greeter will provide one for you outside. You are welcome to bring your Bible with you. Otherwise, just come as you are!

Do I have to wear a mask?

We will require everyone to **wear a mask properly** to attend our services at Alamance. That means secured tightly over the nose and chin. We will have extra masks if someone forgets to bring one. Mask wearing for all activities at Alamance, indoor and outdoor, is an expectation for the foreseeable future.

What time do I need to arrive?

The doors will open at **9:30 a.m.** At **9:55 a.m.**, the pastors will offer some instructions for the service to those who have gathered in-person before the Livestream broadcast begins. Please plan to arrive and be in your seat **no later than 9:55 a.m.**

Where do I go when I arrive at the church?

Park at the church as you would normally, taking care to leave parking spaces for our members with mobility challenges. Please take full advantage of the double parking spaces. We will all be departing about the same time! When we fail to double park, we deprive members who need more convenient spaces the chance to access our building easily.

When you arrive, speak with the greeter in the parking lot. Greeters will have *Welcome Back Cards* for you to complete if you have not brought one with you. You **must** fill out a *Welcome Back Card* to attend worship.

We expect those who are physically able to enter through the front doors of the sanctuary. Please plan to enter and exit from the same door. We encourage those who need to sit toward the front of the sanctuary and those with mobility challenges to enter through the side door of the sanctuary.

When you enter, please take advantage of the hand sanitizing stations.

Where can I sit? Can I move around during the service?

We have reserved seating sections throughout the sanctuary. An usher will help you find your seats. We encourage you to greet one another, but please maintain social distancing and plan to remain in your seat during the service. If necessary, use the bathrooms in the Gathering Room/Thin Place Gallery. We ask that you refrain from walking up onto the platform at the front, or to the audiovisual station, to protect our staff who have not yet been vaccinated.

What should I expect?

Some parts of our service will be different, at first. We will not have responsive readings or choral music. Katie will sing two hymns; we will not have congregational singing. Services will last about 45 minutes. We will not have Children's Messages or Children's Church. We will not offer childcare in the nursery. We will not pass the offering plates; collection boxes will be placed at each door.

However, we will still have music. We will pray, read scripture and hear inspiring sermons. We will offer ourselves to God, and we will pass the peace. There will be announcements, and a few surprises too!

What safety precautions is the church is taking besides social distancing and mask wearing?

We have hand sanitizing stations at every door for your convenience. Our custodial service will clean all seating and traffic areas after the service. The sanctuary will sit empty for several days after each Sunday's worship service.

What happens if someone who attends worship later tests positive for COVID-19?

In the event someone tests positive for COVID-19, we will use the *Welcome Back Cards* for contact tracing. Everyone who attended will be notified and encouraged to be tested. The staff will all be tested. If someone on the staff tests positive, in-person worship will be suspended for two weeks.