



Twin Villages Church

PO Box 314
40 Church Street
Damariscotta, Maine 04543
207.975.9632
www.twinvillageschurch.org

May 29, 2020

Good evening TVC family!

The elders are excited to be putting plans in place to reopen the building on Sunday, June 7th as we will gather again in-person to worship our Lord & Savior!

First of all, we want to thank you for your patience as we have been meeting and planning the safest way to reopen the building. We also recognize that some of the plans and procedures we will implement may prove to be too cumbersome or may not work. We definitely have learned flexibility over these past few months, so please know that the elders will be reviewing and evaluating how each Sunday goes, and will make any necessary adjustments. Any changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Although we will be gathering in person, as you would expect, it will look a little different. We do want to communicate some information to you and provide you with an idea of what to expect on June 7th.

For the time being we will be doing a “worship only” format. This means that we will not have fellowship breakfasts, fellowship lunches, Rooted, and nursery. There will be no “children’s box” lesson before the sermon and we will not be providing backpacks for the children during the sermon. Note sheets will continue to be provided, but we ask that you please provide pens, pencils or crayons. We believe this is the best course of action for a season, and like always, we want to encourage you to worship together as a family.

We are working toward having music as part of our worship service, but singing has been shown to increase the risk of respiratory transmission of COVID-19 so we are making plans to have additional precautions in place. When we do sing, the elders ask that you please wear a cloth face covering if you will be singing along with the worship team. If you chose to hum along or worship silently during the times of music a cloth face covering would not be necessary.

Seating will be arranged to help us maintain the recommended physical distancing requirement of 6 feet. We are planning to use the pews but will be blocking off certain sections to help us maintain physical distancing. We will also use the black chairs to help supplement seating capacity that will be lost due to blocking off sections of the pews. In addition, the windows



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between the sanctuary and East Hall will be opened so East Hall can be used to provide more seating. There will also be a TV and seating downstairs in the Fellowship Hall as another seating option.

The pew cushions will be removed from the sanctuary, so we want to encourage you to bring your own cushion for the pews and please be sure to take the cushion with you after the service.

We ask that you please RSVP for the service by contacting one of your elders: Pastor Phil (phil@twinvillageschurch.org), Breck Holladay (chimneyguybreck@gmail.com), or Grant Sorterup (gsorterup@gmail.com). This will help us as we arrange the seating and create pods so families can sit together Sunday morning.

We will be removing the hymnals and Bibles from the pews. The worship guides will be expanded to contain all the information for the worship service. The guides will be placed on the pews and chairs and at several different locations throughout the sanctuary and East Hall in the event that additional copies are needed. They will be arranged so you only touch the guide you will use. After the service, we ask that you take your worship guide home or place in one of the garbage cans in the building.

Pastor Phil will be preaching from the platform up front to allow for more room between him and the congregation.

We are planning to take communion together on June 7th. There will be 2 stations up front and each station will be manned. The first station will be on the East Hall side of the sanctuary. A person will be masked and gloved, and they will place bread in your hand. The second station will be in front of the piano. A person will be masked and gloved, and they will hand you a cup of juice. Those sitting in East Hall will be dismissed first and after they have moved through the stations, the people sitting in the sanctuary will be asked to come forward one section at a time. We will all partake of the elements together as a church family. Please be aware of those around you and seek to maintain proper physical distancing. Yes, this will likely be clunky and awkward, and we will have to work out the kinks. If you do not feel comfortable participating in communion, please know that we understand and we do not want you to feel pressured to participate.

We will need to maintain a list of all attendees and visitors. Keeping attendance needs to be done in the event that we learn that an attendee tests positive for COVID-19 and we need to contact those in attendance.



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We ask that you please wear cloth face coverings whenever you are not sitting in your seat. We do have a smaller space and physical distancing will likely be difficult to maintain as we enter the building, stand in line to receive the communion elements, and leave the building. TVC will not be providing face coverings, so please be sure to have one available for you to use. We ask that you please be sensitive to one another as we seek to love one another and our neighbors.

As you enter and leave the building, we ask that you please be aware of those around you. The entrance to the sanctuary is an area that can quickly become congested.

We will be live streaming the entire service starting on June 7th. So, if you do not feel comfortable attending in-person, do not feel well, and/or are at higher risk for COVID-19 please use the live stream option. We would love to have you join us in person, but we understand that may not be feasible at this time. Providing a live stream option is one way we are seeking to love one another during this time.

The facility is already in the process of being “deep cleaned” so it is ready to go for Sunday, June 7th. If you are available to help with the cleaning, please contact Pastor Phil.

There will be signage posted in the building that list the symptoms of COVID-19, encourage the practice of physical distancing, and the CDC recommendation to use face coverings where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

Sandra Townsend will be revising the cleaning schedule. If you want to be added to the schedule or removed from the schedule please be sure to contact her at 207.563.5807 or maysantownsend@aol.com. The elders have been reviewing the recommended cleaning procedures put out by the CDC and will be providing some detailed instructions for how the building will need to be cleaned.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of your elders. We love you and are here to serve you for the strengthening of the church and the glory of God!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Breck Holladay, Phil Nicewonger, Grant Sorterup