

# HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Vespers*

September 13th, 2020

We are excited to offer a Vespers Service outdoors this coming Sunday evening. What follows are a series of directions that will help you navigate this new service and free you up to engage in and enjoy worship. This probably goes without saying; however, if you or anyone in your family is coughing, sneezing, has a fever, or just feels unwell, please stay home and join another time.

### ***General Overview:***

- ❖ **Timing:**
  - The service will take place at 5:45pm Sunday evening and be roughly 45 minutes long.
- ❖ **Weather:**
  - In the event of rain, we will notify of cancellation via our website, social media, and direct email to those who have registered.
- ❖ **Reservations:**
  - No cap on the number of participants
  - However, we do ask for registration in advance to help with preparation of Lord's Supper.
  - You can locate a link to the reservation system on our website, the Church Center App, and in the Looking Up message.
- ❖ **Parking:**
  - Participants can park in the Peace Haven lot and walk in across the lawn to find a seat.
  - We are reserving some parking spots for vulnerable congregants who would like to participate from their cars. Please view the parking and seating map to locate these spaces.
- ❖ **Entrance and Exit:**
  - Enter by walking from the Peace Haven lot across the front lawn towards the Worship Hall.
  - Since we will be outside, we simply ask folks to be mindful of maintaining physical distancing while entering and exiting the lawn space as well as getting settled into your spot from your vehicle.
- ❖ **Location:**
  - The "stage" nestled between the Worship Center and Education building.
- ❖ **Seating:**
  - Extend from the patio back across the lawn up towards the fence.
  - Participants are asked to bring their own seating (chair and/blanket) and practice physical distancing.
  - Please leave the concrete walkways clear for access to the Lord's Table during communion.
- ❖ **Access to the Church Building:**
  - We are asking folks to limit entrance into the building as much as possible.
  - Restrooms (with changing stations) will be accessible through the open doors by the elevator.
    - The open bathrooms will be the Men's and Women's in the main lobby.
    - Signs will direct those who may need to use the restroom.
- ❖ **Playground:**
  - The church playground and gaga pit will be unavailable.
- ❖ **Face Coverings:**
  - Due to the nature of gathering outdoors, wearing a mask will be left to your own discretion and comfort level.
  - However, because of the flexibility of this policy, we must insist that physical distancing be strictly observed throughout the service.
  - We anticipate that because we will be outside, many will not be wearing masks.

### ***Worship Service in Particular:***

- ❖ An Order of Worship for the service will be available for you to print out on your own ahead of time, or you may access it on your device. No printed materials will be available.
- ❖ We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and you can find instructions for what to expect in a companion document.
  
- ❖ Guidance for infants and toddlers (from our Nursery and Children's Ministry Staff):
  - Feel free to bring items that you would typically bring to a picnic to help keep your infant engaged during the service (toys, play mats, car seats, blankets, drinks, snacks)
  - Changing stations will be available in the men's and women's restrooms in the main lobby. In an effort to love your neighbor well, please follow the sanitation instructions listed at the stations.
  - The outdoor service will be very informal. Unlike the typical service, where you might have felt apprehensive about speaking with your child during the service, feel free to use this opportunity for some "hands on" training for your child on worship basics. Here are some ideas:
    - Stand up when we stand
    - Sit when we sit
    - Bring their Bible
    - Fold hands and close eyes during prayer
    - Sing when we sing
    - Raise their hands for the benediction
  - Please note that for your safety the playground will not be available at this time.