



(re)LAUNCH CHURCH

(re)considering church
in a covid-19 world



HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Guidelines for Outdoor Worship for Mountain Sky Conference Churches

The following are guidelines to help local churches considering outdoor worship. These guidelines were developed in partnership with the Billings area churches and the Prairie Campus of First UMC in Colorado Springs. Please remember to confer with your District Superintendent prior to planning an outdoor worship service.

Areas to think through as you begin this journey:

- Publicize this service!
 - This takes a lot of work and it is incredible evangelism for your community.
 - Yard signs, postcards, social media ads, and personal invitations.
 - Sandwich boards in the neighborhood.
- Consider Location that allows for contingencies and visibility
 - Shaded
 - Inclement weather
 - Visibility of the worship team
 - Stage, pickup truck, flatbed trailer, hill, parking lot
 - If you have wind, you have to weigh everything down. Even your communion chalice.
 - Consider traffic flow, have one entrance and consider blocking others at the beginning of service especially. Consider safety for traffic flow.
 - Consider safety of setup?
 - Do you have cars 1 space apart or next to each other?
 - Are windows up or down?
 - Can people sit on the lawn? How do you help them know safe distance?
 - Bathroom Access
 - Can you provide it safely?
 - Who cannot come if you don't have bathrooms?
- Are you going to stream service? Are you going to continue online service in another way?
- Can you share the equipment with other churches to cut costs?
- Critical mass of people at location to make setup worthwhile.
- Do you have access to the equipment you need?
 - Sound system w/speakers
 - Consider noise complaints and how to be a good neighbor.
 - FM Transmitter - make sure you only use 1 Watt or less power
 - Musical equipment

- Streaming equipment
 - Mevo or a cell phone
 - <https://mevo.com> (Single camera streaming device.)
- Coverings for sound, volunteers, or worship team
- All worship notes in a three ring binder, clips and weights to hold things down.
- Music
 - Consider the same music as inside or different music style for outside.
 - Guitar is an easy transition to outside.
 - Keyboard running through the sound system.
 - Consider prelude and postlude music.
 - Get lyrics to people by printing in the bulletin.
- Bulletins
 - Consider electronic or paper
 - How to safely get the information to people with minimal contact?
- Communion
 - Do people bring their own? Do they get pre-packaged communion? Consider your context and don't forget the online audience?
- Volunteers
 - Should be masked and gloved if handing out items or interacting with attendees.
 - Worship Team
 - Tech person and assistant
 - Lead musician and others
 - Greeters and Parking Attendants
 - Consider how many you need to help with traffic flow and answering questions.
 - Should people wear safety vests? How are they identified?
 - Check in and help folks, make sure they can hear service etc.
- FM station advertising
 - Sandwich board or poster, as well as printed in bulletin.
- Visitors
 - Send postcards to folks in the zip code, let them know about this and consider other ads. Outside church is exciting!
 - If you are interested in connecting you can do it through the website or drop a piece of paper with contact info in the offering box.
- Donations/Offerings
 - Online
 - Text to Give
 - Drop checks or cash into a box.
 - Locked donation box that volunteer holds up for folks.

- How does this get back to church in an accountable way?
- Masks?
 - In your early advertising encourage the use of masks to make sure people know you still are considering safety.
 - Then follow local masking mandates and guidelines.
 - For many places masks outside are only required if social distancing is not possible.
 - Please consider setting a standard and sticking to it. Demonstrate the standard as a leader by wearing a mask where needed, to maintain proper distancing and to remain safe.
 - All volunteers in contact with people should wear masks when interacting through windows of cars or helping people on the lawn.

Below is the public information from two of our churches in Mountain Sky who have done outside worship this summer. Prairie Camps of First UMC in Colorado Springs, CO and Shiloh UMC in Billings, MT. Please contact these churches if you need any help troubleshooting your work. Blessings on your ministry and may God's love be proclaimed in your neighborhood.



Shiloh Drive-in Church Info

If you are not comfortable with “in person” worship, on-line worship will be available every week.

As you enter the parking lot, you will be given a bulletin, individual communion elements and other goodies by volunteers wearing a mask and gloves.

Please enter the lot from Avenue C Only! The Shiloh Road entrance will be blocked off until after worship.

If you want to watch from your car: Park in the parking lot facing north (toward the rims) and tune your radio to FM 88.5.

If you want to watch from the lawn: Park in the back of the parking lot (near the mini mall) or on the lawn near the back fence (west side). Sit in one of the designated areas on the east lawn with immediate family members. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket.

Guidelines for safe worship

- Anyone showing symptoms of sickness should remain home.
- No passing of offering plates or anything else (including communion elements) from car to car, or people to people.
- Receive and exchange of items will happen with gloved and masked volunteers as people come into worship.
- Electronic giving or mailing offerings are requested.
- With the permission of a volunteer, use of church bathrooms will be permitted. Since they will not be sanitized between uses, you will be using them at your own risk.
- Attendees are asked to stay inside vehicles at all times if they do not choose to sit on the lawn.
- For individuals wanting to sit in the lawn area, they must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other households at all times. They are responsible for bringing their own lawn chairs and blankets.
- Those who sit on the lawn are asked to wear a mask to protect others as we sing during worship.
- Attendees should not interact physically with clergy, staff or participants in other vehicles or spaces.
- Vehicles should contain only members of a single household. Do not bring your neighbors or others outside of your household.
- Free Store Drive

We invite you to bring the items requested in the Free Store GIVE AWAY BAGS article above. Please hand them out your window as you enter the parking lot on Sunday.

Come enjoy social-distanced worship with us!



Drive-in Church at the Prairie Campus

When: Sundays at 10 AM

Where: Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy Parking Lot, 9433 Vista Del Pico Blvd.

Things to know:

- Cars will be parked every other space
- Folks will stay in their car at all times
- You'll tune into a certain radio frequency to hear from within your car
- No bathrooms available, the school will be locked
- Please bring something for communion – crackers and water are just fine!
- Bring your bible, if available
- Parents – print and bring the Children's Ministry sheets from the e-newsletter each week to keep kids occupied

- Offering – a drop box will be available in the parking lot for checks or cash (for tax purposes, if you are giving by cash, please put it in an envelope with your name on it)
- Prayer Requests – May also be dropped in the donation box
- The drive-in service will be recorded each week, and on Sundays at 12:30 p.m., it will be livestreamed to Facebook and the website.
- To access the song lyrics and scripture passage, please click the link in the weekly e-newsletter or on the website.