

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COMMUNITY WORSHIP FAQ

Why Community Worship?

The micro-church model (which is what our Community Worship is based on) is one which has been used throughout the world during times when meeting in small groups has been safer than meeting in a large group in a sanctuary. We find ourselves in such a time.

“Normal” worship during this time comes with many restrictions that limit our capacity for real interaction and requires ramping up our staff and volunteer efforts tremendously to ensure a safe reopening.

In an effort to include as many people in our congregation as possible, and to continue our discipleship journey together, Community Worship will be offered alongside online worship. Not only does this model of worship keep us connected as a congregation, but it also provides a viable option for longer-term worship and discipleship as COVID continues, and creates opportunity to engage people who are not yet part of our community in meaningful and engaging worship.

What is Community Worship like?

Community Worship is composed of a group of 6-12 people who meet regularly in person to worship together. Meetings of the Community Worship groups will take place in several locations throughout the church. Some will meet in the Fellowship Hall, some in the Fireside Room, and some in the chancel area of the sanctuary. We will utilize an Order of Worship along with a video message both provided by the pastor. The order of worship includes a Call to Worship, a time of sharing joys and concerns and praying together, reading scripture, hearing the message, and reflecting together on the message, time for offering, and sending each other out with a blessing. The pastor will attend Community Worship at regular intervals to give communion as part of the worship service.

Why is Community Worship safer than regular worship in the sanctuary?

Public Health officials have said that worship as it is most familiar to us is among the riskiest activities we can do right now. Smaller groups reduce the risk of transmission and lower the number of people affected if transmission does happen. Community Worship groups will be expected to follow safety guidelines and follow screening procedures put in place by the

church. Additionally, each group will covenant with one another about the ways they will commit to taking precautions to keep one another safe. The groups will follow our Guidelines for Meeting and our Community Worship Covenant Template to establish the guidelines for their group.

How can I get involved in Community Worship?

There are a few ways to get involved.

1. Fill out this form ([Community Worship Sign Up Form](#)) or contact Rev. Sarah (sarah@graceumcbillings.org) to let us know you're interested. You will then be contacted with information about when and where your group will meet.
2. If you would like to start your own Community Worship group, contact Rev. Sarah (sarah@graceumcbillings.org) to get more information about meeting and who you would like to have as part of your group.