



# March 2021

# Banner

Central  
Christian  
Church



## Special Edition!



### In-person Worship - *At last!*

It's official: Central Christian Church will be opening its doors once again for in-person worship on Palm Sunday, March 28th at 9:00 a.m. After one year of staying at home and viewing worship services on-line, church members, friends, and visitors will once again greet and say hello to one another.

However, as the old saying goes: *"We're not out of the woods yet!"* Because of the COVID-19 virus, everyone still has to take precautions. This includes wearing a mask to church and doing one's best at social distancing. Hand sanitizer is a must, so there will be plenty of opportunity to use it as you enter and leave the church.

To meet the challenge of in-person

(continued on page 2)



## Deacons & Deaconesses

The Deacons and Deaconesses (Church Stewards) have always had a special role in Central's worship service. This includes meeting and greeting people as they enter the church for worship, participating in collecting the offering as well as serving communion.

In the upcoming Palm Sunday worship service, Deacons and Deaconesses will have different roles to perform, and some "put on hold". The main duties of the Church Stewards will be this:

- Meet and greet everyone;
- Offer personal communion and bulletins as people enter;
- Be in charge of the offering;

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( In-person worship: continued)

worship, everyone is asked to follow the following guidelines to keep everyone safe as possible:

- Wear a mask - one will be provided if you need one;
- Please sit where “X marks the spot” (See photos on the right);
- Select your communion elements before you enter the Sanctuary (See photos below);
- Place all tithes and offerings in the brass plate as you enter or leave the Sanctuary.



- Do your best at social distancing.

The above guidelines are just the beginning. As we continue to meet for worship for the next several months, adjustments will probably be needed. So, **BE PATIENT!**

On the back page of this edition of the *Banner* is a diagram of the seats that are marked for sitting at social distancing. Everyone is asked to sit where's an “X”. In the case of families sitting together, adjustments are allowed.

When the worship service has ended, everyone is asked to leave the Sanctuary as quickly as possible. Christ City Church will need time to set up for their Facebook Live.



The three pictures of the Sanctuary pews show where “X marks the spot”. These specific locations have been designated for “social distancing”. Please note that Christ City Church helped to prepare the pews for Central Christian as well as Christ City.

## TAKING COMMUNION - THE NEW WAY -

In order to have a safe environment as we worship, prepared communion will be available as you enter through the Narthex. Please select your elements and have them ready when we partake communion in unison. Please note that if you select element #2, open the bread side first, then the liquid side.

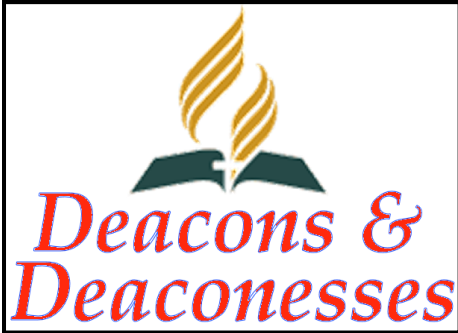


( Above: Element #1)



( Above: Element #2)



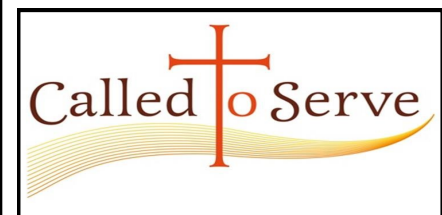


**( Deacon Duties: continued)**

- Place communion elements on display in the Narthex prior to worship service;
- Remove communion elements after worship service;
- Pick up and dispose of all empty communion elements.

In order to become familiar with the above tasks, Deacons are asked to arrive a few minutes early before the Palm Sunday service to go over and become familiar with our new way of worshipping.

Please note that Deacons will not have to take up the offering nor distribute communion until it is once again safe to do so.



**From our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell**



I cannot tell you how excited I am that we will be resuming in-person worship on Palm Sunday. There's a Palm Sunday solo I sang for many years, "*Open the Gates of The Temple*", which would be so fitting for this year as we reopen our sanctuary for worship after the pandemic has closed us down for a year. I eagerly look forward to seeing each one of

you, but I will understand if some of you are still hesitant to be there in person. I urge you to follow your instincts for your health. I am ready to shout "*Hosanna in the highest*" as we lay palm branches on the altar on Palm Sunday. I'm ready to shout "hallelujah" as I see each of you in person. Stay well, friends, and have a blessed rest of Lent and Holy Week.



**A GENTLE REMINDER!**

Due to inclement weather, and delays in receiving mail, the Outreach Committee has extended Week of Compassion giving until March 17. Hopefully by then the mail service will be back to normal. From the book of Isaiah 49:10

*"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs."*



**Easter Sunday is April 4th!**



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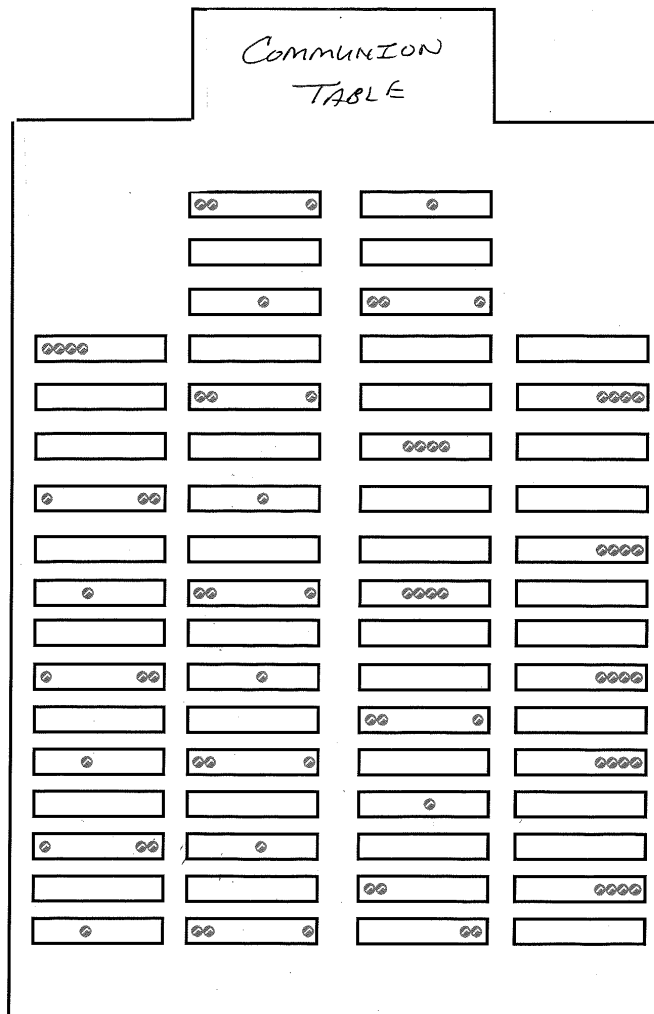
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## SOCIAL DISTANCE SEATING

The diagram on the right shows the pews that are marked for social distancing seating. Don't forget that you may adjust the seating in the pews for families of two or more members.



March 28th  
Palm Sunday



If you want to receive the Banner by E-Mail please contact the Church Office, by phone on (901) 276-2708 or by e-mail at: centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org