

TEMPE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Guidelines and Safety Protocols For In-Person Church Services

The Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists has proposed reopening AZ churches with safety measure recommendations sent to all churches. These recommendations have been proposed to minimize social contact and to prevent, as far as possible, any potential contraction of Covid-19. The Tempe church has composed safety protocols with the AZ Conference document as a guide.

***Tempe Church will reopen for in-person church services on
May 30, 2020***

We are all anxious to see one another in person, to enjoy fellowship, and worship our great God. Practicing these safety protocols will give our services a very different feel, but we appreciate your cooperation. At this point, please consider these protocols as an indefinite part of our church services until circumstances dictate a change.

Church Sabbath School and Worship attendance is voluntary. Attend if you feel the environment is safe. If you are ill, please stay home.

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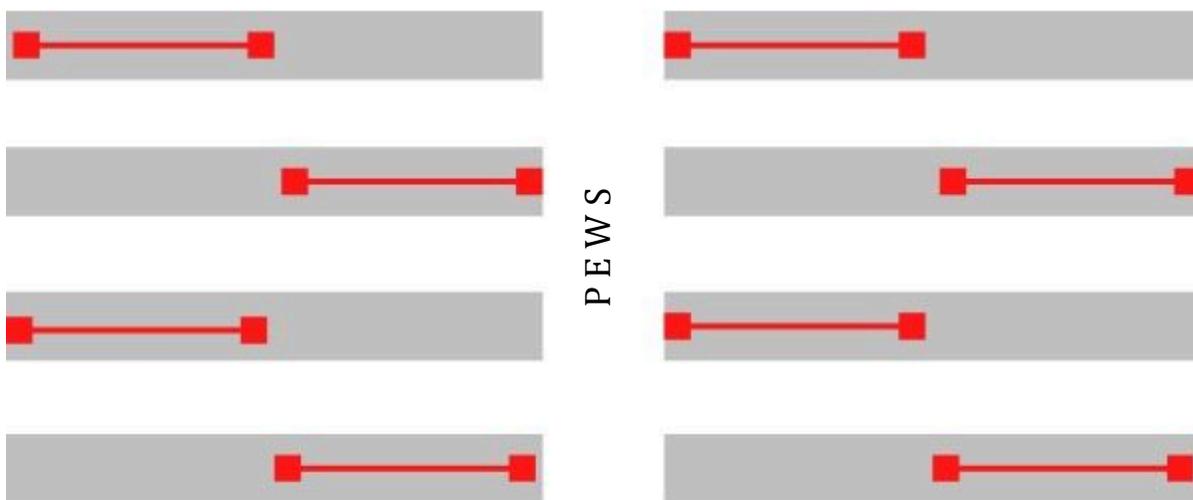
SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Physical Contact

Please refrain from shaking hands, hugs, etc. at all times, any place. The usual “meet and greet” time during service is cancelled. Maintain the 6-foot distance.

Seating

All pews will be clearly marked with tape. *TAPE INDICATES AREAS OFF LIMITS*. Families can sit together. The east and west wings of the sanctuary are reserved *only* for our seniors for worship service. The diagram below illustrates our pew seating requirements:



 = Taped area that is OFF LIMITS

As you can see from this diagram, worshipers will be seated in a “checkerboard” fashion.

Greeters and Bulletins

A greeter will be present in the foyer to welcome you while maintaining the 6-foot distance and omitting hand shaking. In lieu of greeters handing out church bulletins, bulletins will be placed on a small table for you to take.

Sanitizing

Doorknobs and handles, sink faucets, countertops, etc. will be wiped periodically throughout Sabbath morning. The church is cleaned before Sabbath (usually on Wednesdays) and extra sanitizing will take place. When using the restrooms, please wash your hands with soap and water after usage. With the paper towel you use to dry your hands, use it to open the door before exiting, then throw it away. Hand sanitizers are available in all bathrooms and the foyer (do not remove them).

Public Etiquette

When coughing or sneezing, please do so with your mouth/face *covered* and *away* from people. Use the inside of your arm at the bend of the elbow to cough/sneeze into.

Food

There will be no treats for guests, potlucks, or breakfasts until further notice.

Masks

If you have face masks please wear them. We will have a very limited amount available at church for you to use. Although not mandatory, the Arizona Conference is strongly recommending usage.

Illness, Symptoms

If you are ill or are exhibiting concerning symptoms (flu, cough, fever, etc.) please remain at home. People that have been exposed to areas with potential COVID-19 should stay home and quarantine themselves.

Water Fountain

The outside water fountain in the breezeway has been temporarily disconnected. We encourage you to bring your own water bottle/thermos from home.

Hymnals

For worship service, we will have the hymn lyrics on the screen. We ask that you not use the hymnals.

SABBATH SERVICES

Sabbath Schools

For in-person Sabbath school, we will begin at the customary 9:30 a.m. with the pre-lesson program by our superintendents in the sanctuary.

- *CHILDREN'S CLASSES*
 - a. Beginners Class will not have in-person services. Jacquelyn Van Sant, director, is having online beginners class for our beginners. Visit "*A Heavenly Home*" live on Facebook, every Sabbath at 10:15 a.m.
 - b. Kindergarten Class will not meet until further notice. Cherie Stump, our director, is currently mailing out the children's lessons and keeping contact with parents.
 - c. Primary/Junior Class will meet in-person in the Primary Room with safe distancing. Todd Beeson, director.
 - d. Early Teen/Teen Class will meet in-person in the Assembly Room with safe distancing. Jason Knarr, director.
- *ADULT CLASSES*
 - a. General Class for everyone, will meet in the sanctuary. Please follow seating pattern according to tape on pews.
 - b. Pastor's Class will meet in-person in the West Wing. Quarterly is "In Step With Jesus: The Power of the Word." Lesson for May 30, 2020 is #9, "*Honoring God with My Sexuality.*"
 - c. **SPECIAL ZOOM CLASS** for those not quite ready to attend church yet. *Begins at 9:45 a.m.* Adult quarterly lesson will be used. You can join this class from home by using your Zoom app (download it for free). Start your Zoom from your computer, phone, or tablet, join a meeting, then use ID # 821 7803 1649. You can also dial (phone) by your location at 669-900-9128. Chris Albrecht, instructor.

Note: Adult Sabbath school offerings will be collected at worship service. See below.

Worship Service

(Will meet at the regularly scheduled time, 10:45 a.m. Live stream will continue)

Certain elements of the worship service will be adjusted to meet our safety protocols:

- Seating in the East and West wings are strictly reserved for our elderly during worship service.
- No meet and greet time. We will have a simple welcome from the platform by our worship leader.
- Children's story will still be shared but children will not be invited to come to the platform.
- All offerings—including *Lamb's Offerings* and *Sabbath School offerings*—will be collected *at the end of the worship service*. 1-2 deacons will be stationed at the

back doors with offering plates. At worship dismissal, simply drop your tithes and offerings in the plate.

IMPORTANT: Please fill out a tithe envelope and mark your tithes and offerings accordingly. For “Sabbath School Offerings” and “Lamb’s Offerings,” please write it as such in the envelope.

- Praise time singing will be limited to 2 songs maximum. Please do not use hymnals, words will be on the screen.
- During our prayer time, invitations to members and guests to come to the platform for prayer will cease.
- Live streaming our worship services will continue indefinitely (this is something that has been discussed even before the pandemic, so this situation has helped us launch this new service). If you do not feel safe in attending yet, join us at www.tempeadventist.com for the live stream. Please keep in mind that the live stream is not meant to replace public, in-person worship when you are well, able, and feel safe to come.
- Worship dismissal will still be conducted by our deacons. However, dismissal time between each pew will be increased to create distance between groups leaving the sanctuary.
- The pastor will not be greeting people at the exit. Please do not congregate in the foyer.
- The elements of the worship (including the order) will be adjusted to create the best flow possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience!