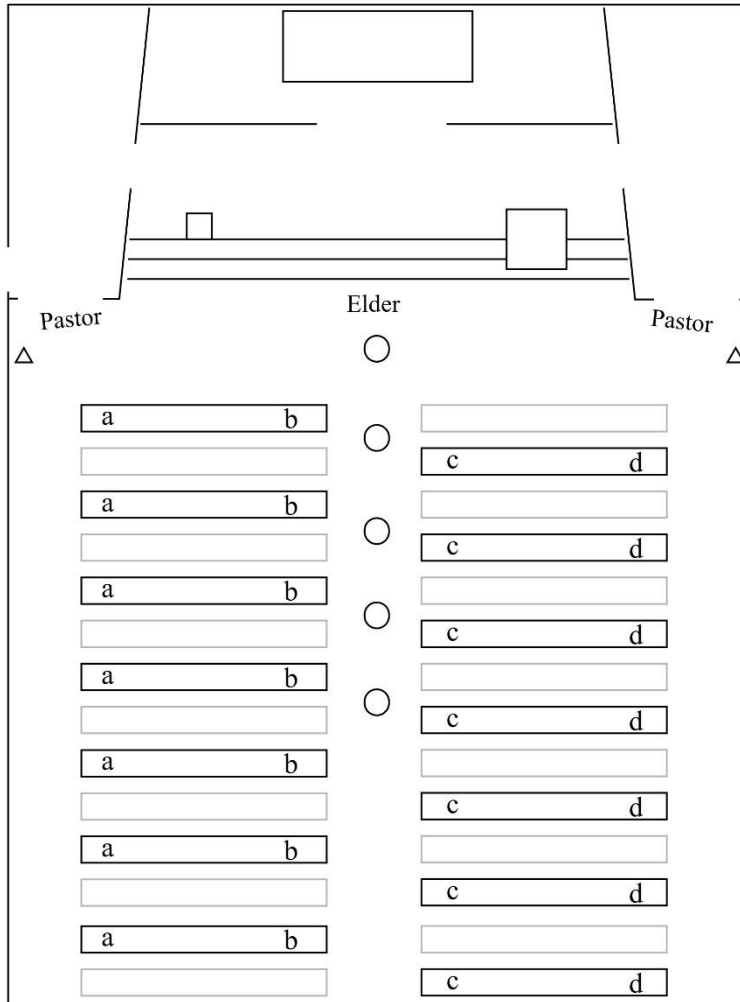


COVID Communion Practice Update



Rationale for communion in the Narthex:

- It eliminates much of the members passing each other for possible exposure.
- During the warmer months we could have good air flow with the front doors.
- It encourages not standing around in the entryway after service.
- Our goal is to return to the communion rail for communion. In the Narthex we are about as opposite that as we can. We are concerned people will like “fast food” communion in the front and not want to return to the table.

Rationale to change to Walk through in the front:

- As we’ve learned more about COVID it takes more than just brief exposures to pass it on (10 min. is now the common rule).
- It seems more like communion when we are at least seeing others receiving it and everyone can participate in singing throughout distribution.
- The Closing Hymn really is a closing hymn, not an almost closing hymn.

New Process for Communion – walk through in front:

- Communion will be at its “normal” place in the liturgy – after the prayers and before the benediction.
- We have five markers on the floor in the center aisle as social distancing reminders.
- Please form only one line, not two like usual.
- Please leave your mask on until you reach the Elder.
- Couples, family units and COVID buddies are welcome to stand together and receive communion together.
- An usher will dismiss you from your pew. The usher will begin in the front and alternate between lectern and pulpit sides.
- As an individual, couple, or family group, please step to the first open marker on the floor, moving forward as members in front of you receive communion.
- As an individual, couple, or family group, step up to the elder together to receive the bread, then, together, move to the pastor on the side you are sitting to receive the wine and a short dismissal blessing.
- Place your used cup in the basket near the pastors.
- Return to your seat up the side aisle and continue to participate in worship.
- At the end of Communion, the worship service will continue as it has pre-COVID.
- Dismissal at the end of service will still be from back to front like it has been.