

Because it has been over a year since the beginning of the pandemic here in Tennessee and there has been a drastic drop in new cases over the last two months (according to the statistics published on the Tennessee Department of Health's website), the Board of Directors and I have established a new policy for Communion distribution. **We will begin that new policy on Palm Sunday, March 28.**

It's really not new. It's a return to the practice at Bethlehem that was in place before the pandemic hit. Participants will be ushered up to the communion rail. They will be welcomed to Christ's table and then dismissed with joy and God's peace.

Because we wish to minister to all of our members who are not all at the same place moving from stay home and stay safe to more open social interactions, conditions have been put in place to accommodate those differences.

- As always, family units will commune together at the rail.
- There will be a limit of six people at the rail at any time (unless the numbers in a family unit exceed that number).
- The wearing of masks remains an option but not a mandate.
- If you desire to maintain six feet physical distance between you and others during the distribution, then speak to an usher before the service or as they invite you to leave the pew and go forward to receive the Sacrament. They will make sure that proper distance is observed. **In those cases, two people can gather at the altar and maintain six feet physical distance.**

Please remember that as we work to return to practices that were disrupted by the response to the virus, this is a process. If you have concerns or comments, let me know. The Board and I will do our best to listen and make adjustments where needed as we continue to move forward.

Again, I thank you in advance for your patience as we walk together through this time of transition.

In service to Christ and to you,
Pastor Harmon