



Signal Mountain

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

612 JAMES BOULEVARD
SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE 37377

Dear Church Family,

It is a reality that none of us want to see, but none of us can afford to ignore: our world is a dangerous place, and venues that we once considered the picture of security can no longer be assumed to be so. All of us love this mountain and its feelings of safety, but we also know that a couple thousand feet of elevation do not protect us from the threats faced by our neighbors in this city, nation and world.

It is for this reason that we are acting to implement some basic procedures and practices that will work to protect our congregation, the staff and all who come to Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church through the week. The Session is well aware that these measures will initially prove inconvenient for most of us. But we are also aware of the fact that over time they will become second nature to us (even as similar procedures have become second nature to you at schools and offices all over town), and even more that inconvenience is a small price to pay in order to protect you and your family.

While different departments and ministry areas will implement these plans in ways tailored to their needs, the following are the general guidelines that you will begin to see in place at the church. You will notice common themes: limiting entry access to the building, enabling communication among key individuals in the building, and providing trained safety personnel for church-wide events.

On Sunday mornings...

- The only entry point to the building during worship services will be the narthex doors.
- The entry points before the 8:10 service will be the narthex and the children's wing.
- The entry points for Sunday School and 10:45 worship will be the narthex, youth cafe, children's wing & 2nd/3rd floor of Cornerstone. Youth café and 2nd/3rd floor of Cornerstone doors will be locked once the worship service begins.
- All open doors will have safety volunteers present at all times.
- Ushers, staff and safety volunteers will have walkie talkies at all times.
- An off-duty officer will be present on campus from 8:00am-12:30pm

On Wednesday evenings...

- From 5:00-6:30 PM, entry points will be the youth cafe, children's floor and 2nd/3rd floor of cornerstone.
- All open doors will have a safety volunteer present at all times.
- After 6:30, entry points will be the youth cafe and 3rd floor Cornerstone.
- An off-duty officer will be present on campus from 5:00-9:00.

During the week...

- There will be one point of access to the church - the Thorington doors (adjacent to the Church Office sign near Marr Chapel). A handicap entrance for those needing to avoid stairs will be at the narthex portico.
- All who come to the church office will need to be buzzed in by the church staff.
- Staff will have walkie talkies at all times.

Special events - Healing Services, MOPS, WOW, etc... - will put the same general principles into place in ways that make sense for them.

I thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility as we work together to protect each other. If you have questions, ideas or concerns about safety, please feel free to talk with me or an elder. There are also ways that you can help us with these plans. In particular, we will be recruiting a sizable team of safety volunteers who will be present at open doors on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you are willing to help with this, please let Christie Gilliam (cgilliam@signalpres.org) know that.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God has willed his truth to triumph through us. As we act in a responsible manner to ensure the safety of this church, we continue pursuing together the God who is our fortress and who has won our safety by making his son vulnerable on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Scott