

## Reopening Summary

Ohio has made good progress on slowing the spread of COVID-19. As we begin the process of reopening our church, we must continue social distancing practices and mask wearing where appropriate to save lives. Our focus is on the health and safety of our congregation and neighbors.

1. We are able to host services in the building, and plan to **start July 12<sup>th</sup>**.
2. However, to reduce the likelihood of transmission, the following precautions are being taken **indoors**:
  - Everyone will wear masks.
  - Family groups will be seated at least 6 feet from others (*called social distancing*).
  - People will be shown to a designated seat (*see diagrams*), and dismissed individually.
  - The service(s) will be shorter.
  - The service will use more recorded music (*fewer performers; no choir*).
  - Responsive reading and singing will be at low volume.
  - We will not have 'passing of the peace' or pass tithing plates.
  - There will not be any gathering in the "coffee area"
3. Several have expressed interest in an **outdoor** offering. The form of that offering is not yet decided, as we want to hear your thoughts (*by completing the survey on the last two pages*).

The next 8 pages are detailed descriptions of worshipping in the building, and a 'first draft' of what worshipping outside may look like. **The last two pages are a new survey we ask everyone to fill out and return.** (*if you received this through email, there will be a link to a SurveyMonkey*). **Thank you!**

## Plan for Reopening – Worship in the Building

The following is a step-by-step ‘walk-through’ of what a person arriving at SUMC will encounter. The protocols are the mainly the same for the Contemporary of Traditional worship as both occur **in the building**. We are exploring the interest level in meeting outside, and that plan follows these “indoor” explanations.

### Entry

As people walk up to the porch, they will see the preschool door blocked by a table with a sign directing them to **enter through the office-side main doors**.

At the office side door will be a **staffed table**. **Two or more greeters** will welcome folks to church and explain that in accordance with Ohio and WOC guidelines we are **requiring everyone who enters the building to wear a mask**. The service is expected to last between 30 and 40 minutes. If you do not have a mask, we have them here. Once inside, please do not congregate to visit. *(Sanitizer available.)*

As worshipers enter the office side door, there will be signs directing them to a) the center doors of the Sanctuary where they will be **met by ushers**; or b) to the Fellowship Hall doors where they will be **met by ushers**. There will be taped “X”s on the floor if a lines form.

Ushers will escort worshipers to **designated seats**. The seating pattern is predetermined, assigning the front and nearest-to-wall seats first so later arrivals do not have to encroach on the social distance of those already seated.

There will be a **tithing box at the usher stations** – please drop offerings as entering *(there will not be an offertory)*. Bulletins will be printed mid-week, and will be waiting on the seats.

### Worship

Worship will be shortened in accordance with West Ohio Conference guidelines. Masks will be worn indoors by all attendees.

During responsive readings, we ask worshippers to speak quietly, as the projection of the voice increases the discharge of moisture droplets from the lungs.

Singing will move to after the message to reduce exposure time. Again we ask worshippers to keep voices to a low volume, or even just hum along.

There will **not** be an offertory, nor a passing of the peace. Expect more use of recorded music and recorded singing to lower the risks of vocal discharge.

At this time, the Fellowship Hall accommodates a maximum of 50 worshipers, and the Sanctuary accommodates a maximum of 48 worshipers (*see attached diagrams*). **If the survey results indicate more worshipers willing to attend** than these numbers, we will use reservations on a 'first come-first served' basis; and will investigate adding another service Saturday or midweek (*see note on cleaning*).

## Exit

Ushers will **invite** individual seated groups to exit. Starting at the back and west, and proceeding to the front and east. Greeters will be stationed in the lobby to remind folks to pass on to the outdoors and to remember social distance. **Sanitizing stations are at the exit doors, on the porch.**

## Cleaning

The safest way to protect volunteers or workers from the crowd's collective risk is to perform any cleaning at least one hour **after** all persons have left an area and/or building. Safer still is to wait three days and the viral risk is close to zero (*the virus degrades with time; like all virus*). This means holding two services in the Sanctuary (*in the morning*) is **less safe**.

**The trustees will structure the cleaning program.** We recommend removing all "seating" furniture and tables from the lobby and hallway areas to a) discourage gathering, and b) lower the number of items to clean.

There are business recommendations regarding having the water fountains disabled, and social distance applied to the restrooms (*barring one urinal and every other stall*).

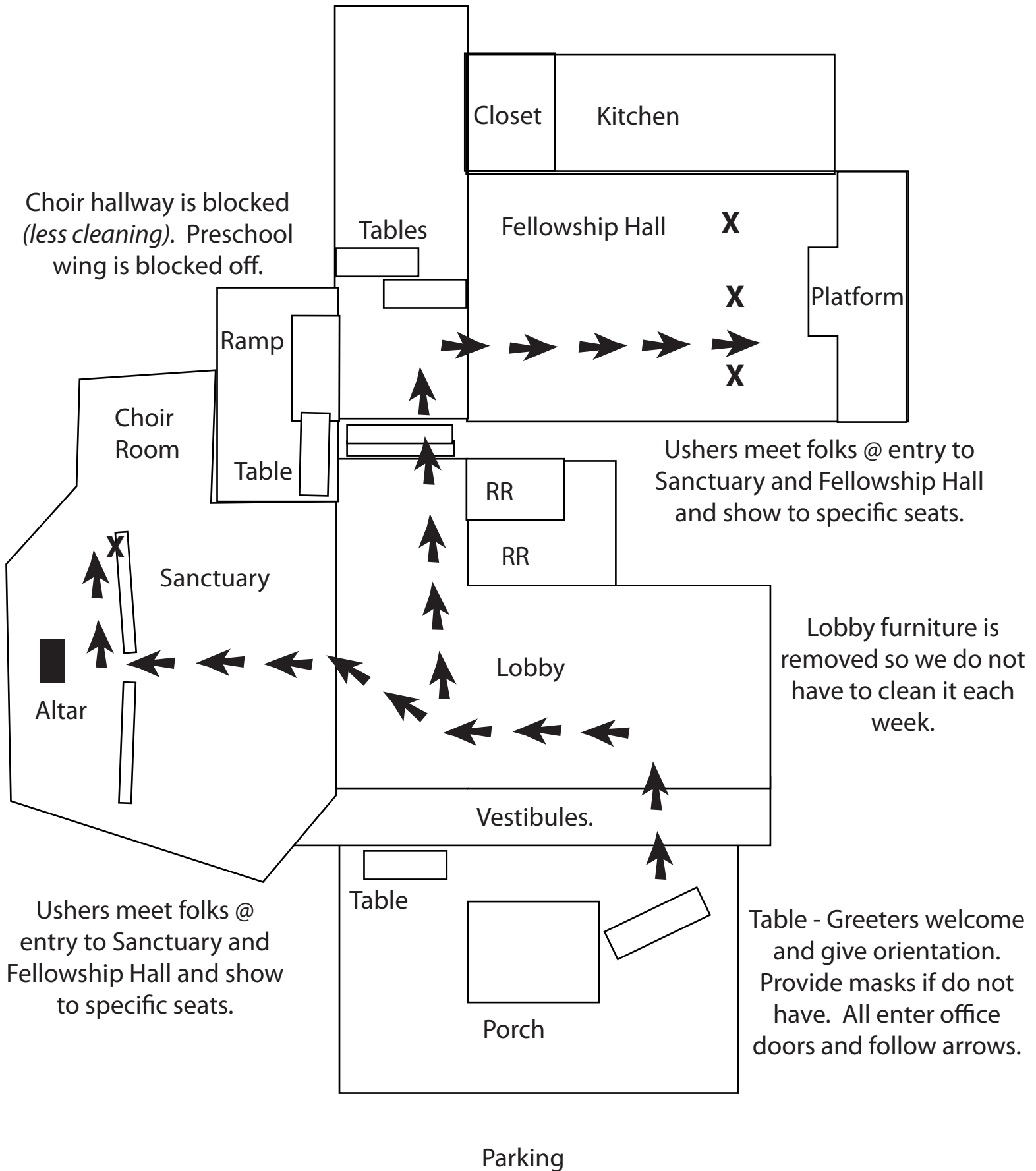
## Coffee and Donuts

There will be no snacks or coffee. We recommend buying a little notebook to keep track of the number of donuts you will be owed when the vaccine is perfected ☺

## Next

The reopening task force is learning that the ways individuals are *coping* (*how they have changed their behaviors*) greatly informs how they assess risk related to Covid-19. Our difficult task is to create an opportunity to worship, while steering as closely as possible to '**do no harm**'. Trying to create "no risk" is simply not possible. The following pages contain detailed diagrams showing traffic and seating plans. The last two pages are the survey we ask be completed and returned.

# SUMC Worship Entry Plan

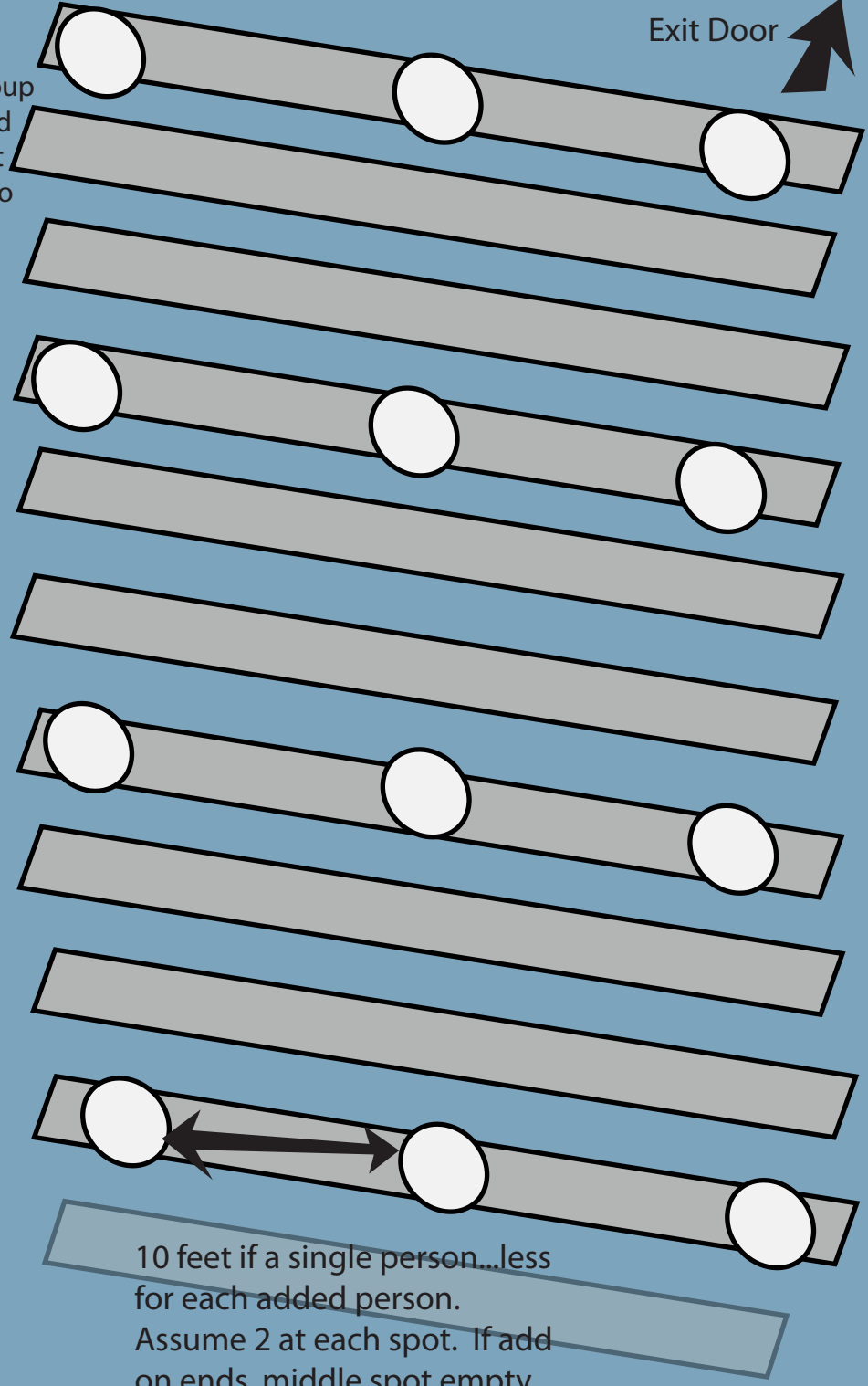
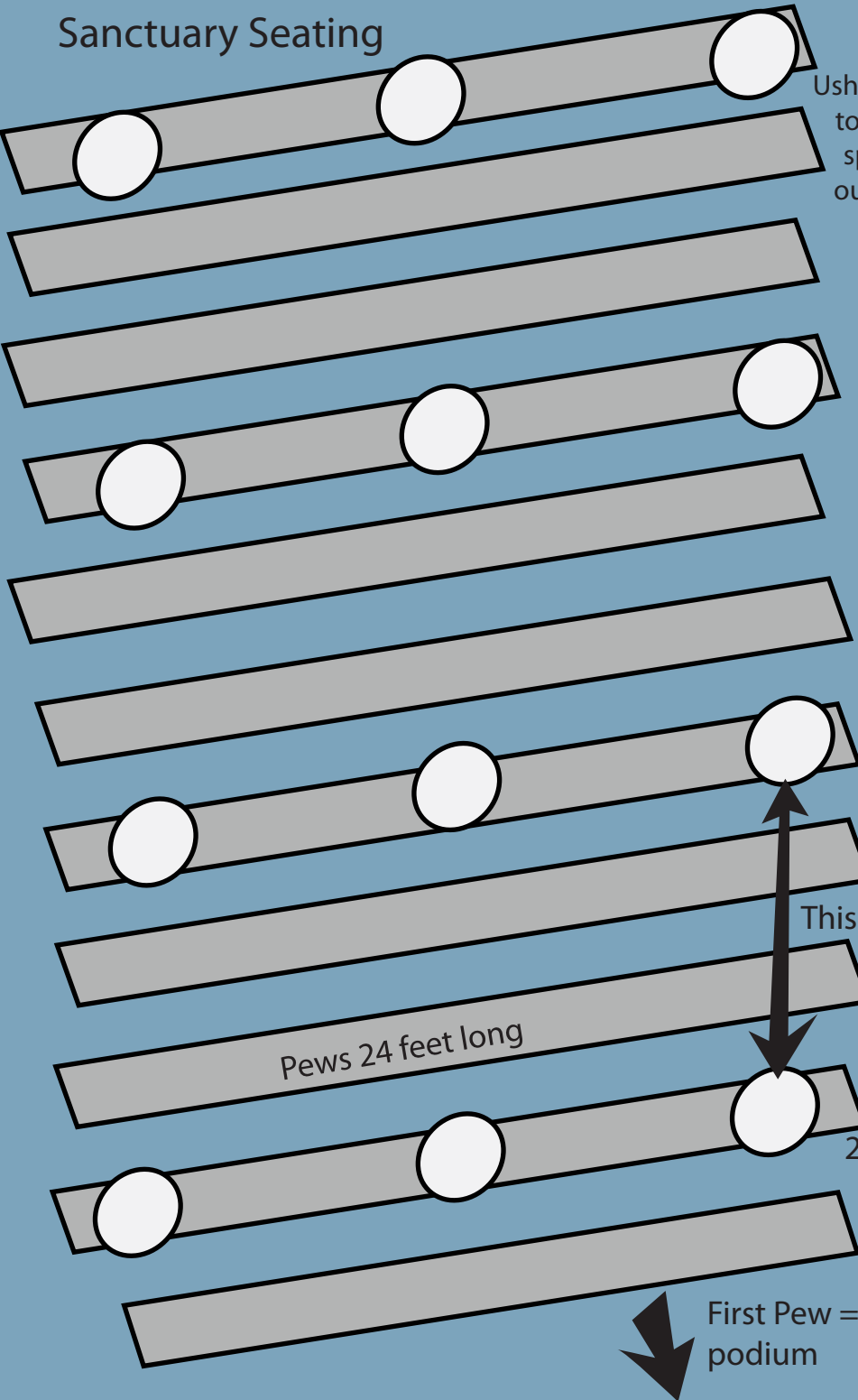




# Sanctuary Seating

Enter

Exit Door 

Ushers show group to a designated spot. Fill front outside edge to middle.

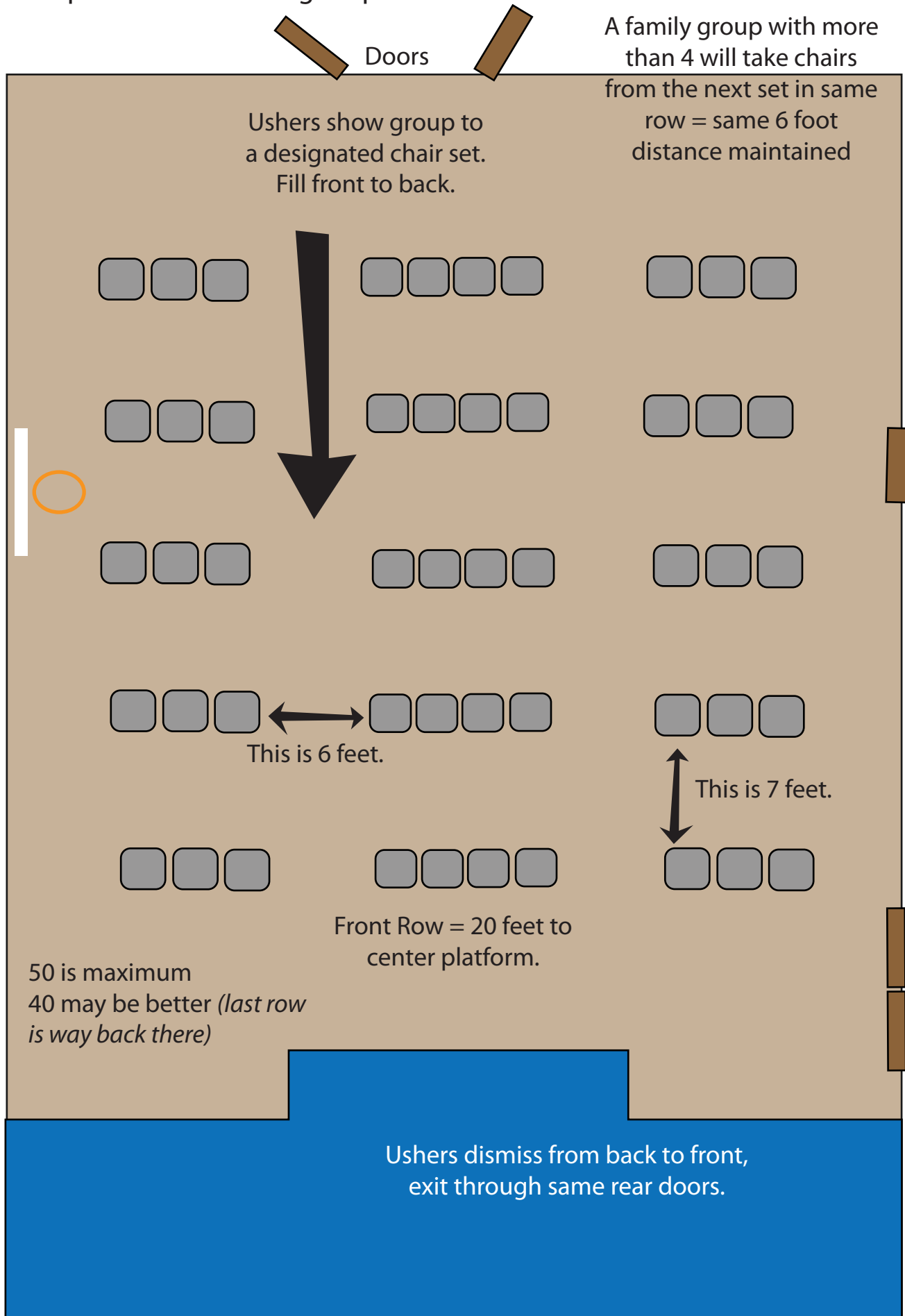


First Pew = 19 feet to podium 

10 feet if a single person...less for each added person. Assume 2 at each spot. If add on ends, middle spot empty.

48 Seated

# Fellowship Hall Covid Seating Proposal



Doors

A family group with more than 4 will take chairs from the next set in same row = same 6 foot distance maintained

Ushers show group to a designated chair set. Fill front to back.

This is 6 feet.

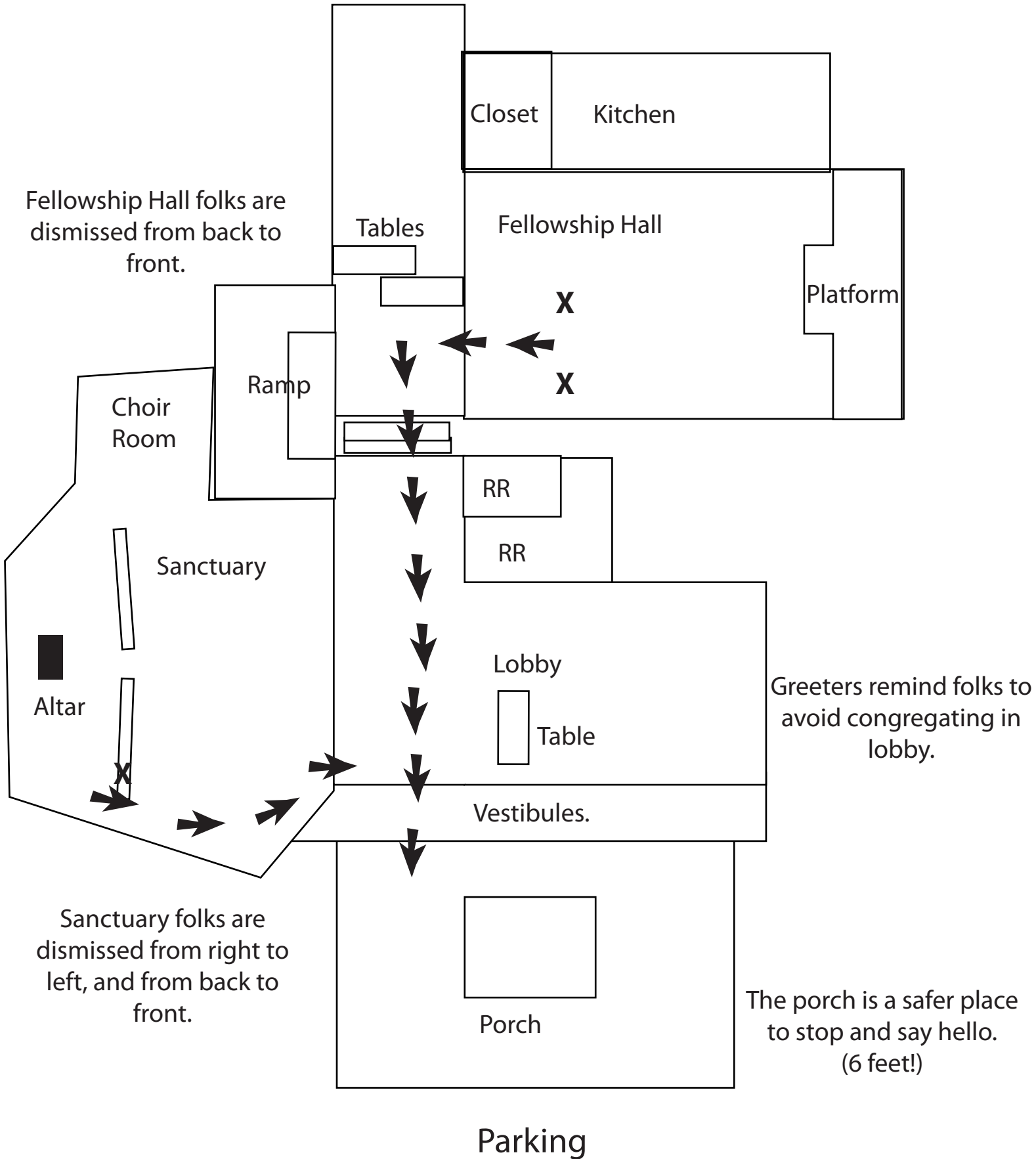
This is 7 feet.

Front Row = 20 feet to center platform.

50 is maximum  
40 may be better (*last row is way back there*)

Ushers dismiss from back to front, exit through same rear doors.

# SUMC Worship Exit Plan



## Worshipping Outside

Several surveys suggested (*in comments*) an interest in staging worship outdoors. There are several health reasons this would be a good idea (*plenty of air and sunshine*), and several practical considerations that may have folks less interested (*heat, and rainy day cancellations*). Please read the following as an introduction to the idea, and respond to the survey to help us understand who would attend an outdoor worship offering.

### Entry

As cars pull in, they will drop their own lawn chairs at the “point”, and continue to the parking lot then **walk back**. At a greeting table, bulletins will be offered (*printed Wednesday, not handled after*), as will masks for those who do not have one. Ushers will escort worshipers to pre-designated “spots” to ensure safe distance between (*see the diagram*).

### Masks

The primary distinction an outdoor service offers is the availability of a section where folks could be “unmasked” (*see the diagram*). We do have members who cannot wear masks for health reasons, not mere preference. **We still encourage those who wish to sing to consider others, and wear a mask during songs.**

### Worship

The outdoor service could be blended, Contemporary or Traditional in style. We will move forward based on survey responses. The plan is to bring out the electronic equipment from the Fellowship Hall. It is understood these outdoor offerings would end with fall weather. There may be a virtual children’s program to keep kids busy during the service.

### Schedule

We might try earlier on Sunday (9am) to avoid the sun...or go for early evening. As the weather might interfere with any efforts, this offering may make more sense as a once a month “worship event” as opposed to a Sunday routine. **We really need to hear from the congregation on this idea.** If an outside service is something you would consider, please give your preferences after studying the diagram.

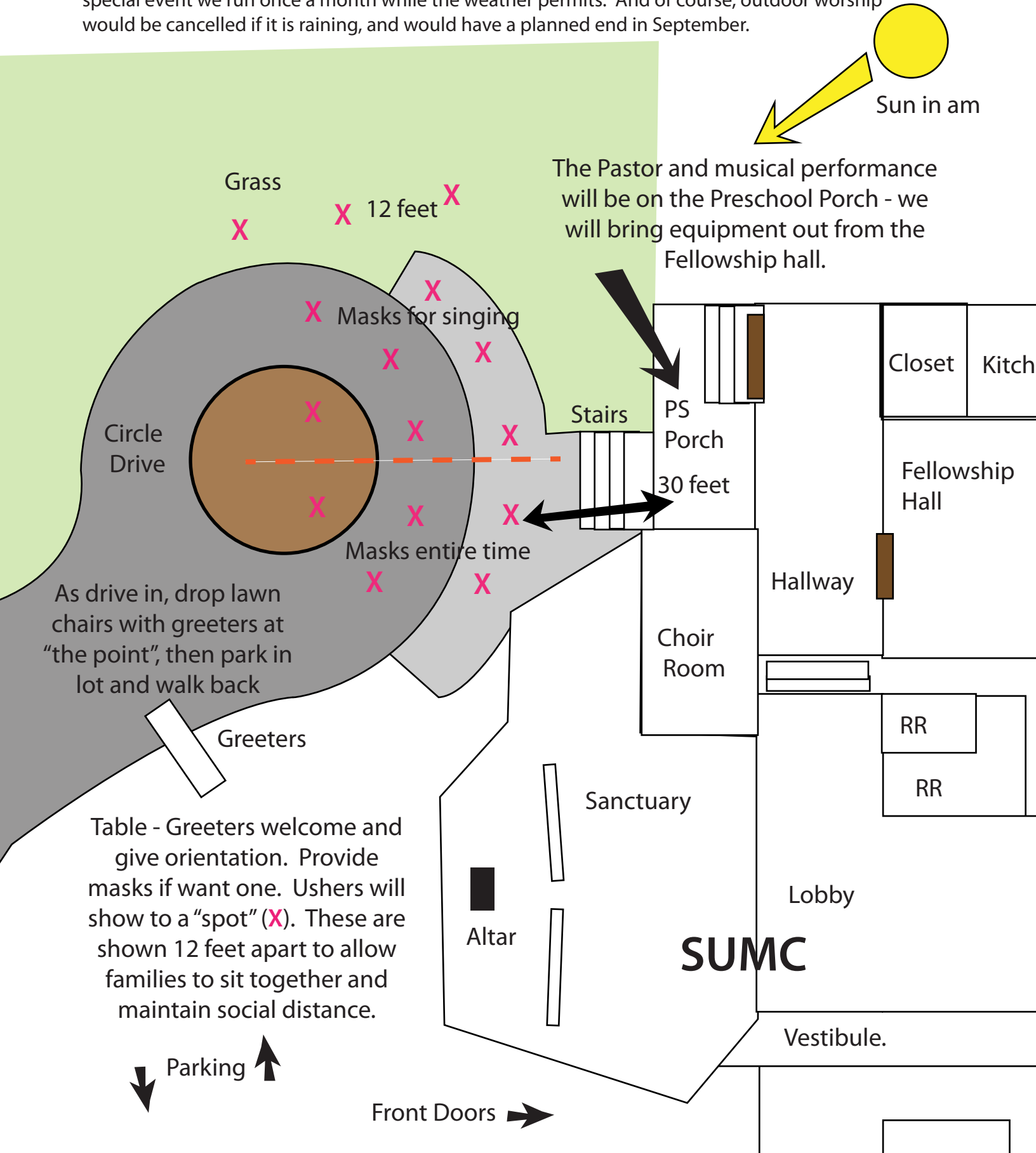
### Exit

Ushers will dismiss worshipers from west to east. Please maintain social distance as we return to cars.



# SUMC Outdoor Worship Plan

This plan has several variables that are not decided at this time. We might choose a different time of day than Sunday morning to make sun and heat less an obstacle. We will need to ask the neighbors what they think. We may not run this option every week, preferring this to be a special event we run once a month while the weather permits. And of course, outdoor worship would be cancelled if it is raining, and would have a planned end in September.



## Survey Two

Please use the following link to access a *SurveyMonkey* asking for more feedback on these detailed plans.

The form of the questions is meant to elicit “who will attend”, so please indicate all options you and your family would be interested in. The reopen task force will use the data we receive to finalize the services to be offered starting July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRF9MRH>