

### **Tornado Procedure (Revised 3/3/2022):**

As we keep the safety of our congregation in mind, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with our Tornado Warning Procedures. Please let someone on the Youth & Family committee know if you have any questions or concerns.

If the National Weather Service has issued a statement that renders our congregation to take shelter (in this case, a tornado warning and NOT a watch), please take a minute to come and find the pastor immediately. At this point, the pastor should make an announcement to the congregation, notifying every one of the severe weather outside. Directly after the announcement, the congregation should then make their way out of the sanctuary, in order of oldest to youngest, to the designated safe locations. It is important to give way for the oldest members of the church to be given the time and space to go first, as they will have smaller spaces to take cover in. Here is a list of places in the church that are deemed acceptable for using during a tornado warning:

- Fellowship Hall Closet
- Women's Restroom (Administrative Hallway)
- Men's Restroom (Administrative Hallway)
- Sacristy
- Men's Restroom (Sunday School Hallway)
- Women's Restroom (Sunday School Hallway)
- High School Youth Room (Basement)
- Middle School Youth Room (Basement)
- Men's Restroom ((Basement)
- Women's Restroom (Basement)

Once you have reached a safe location, close the doors to the room/bathroom and in the hallways once all have passed through safely. Try to keep calm and maintain a safe environment with everyone around you. Please then sit on the ground, with your back to the open space of the room and your head facing a wall. If you do not have the ability to sit on the ground, please find the nearest corner and get as close as possible to it as you can. Use your hands to cover the back of your neck, head down, and knees crouched so you are as small as you can make yourself. One of the best things to do during a threat like this is to minimize the space you take up because it will alleviate the damage done to you, if any. Please continue to stay in this position until you have received verification from either a member of the staff or the Pastor that the tornado warning is over. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.