

First United Methodist Church will resume in-person worship on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. We will begin with one service only. This service will also be streamed to Facebook.

For the past three weeks, our volunteers have been working hard learning our new safety procedures. We need your help to ensure these procedures are followed so everyone stays safe! I am sharing part of an article about a neighboring county church...the procedures listed below are put into place to help prevent this from happening at FUMC.

“A cluster identified in connection with a local congregation continues to grow. A total of 18 cases have been linked to this cluster, which was identified 4 days ago. While we always support the right to worship in your faith, we implore you to do so safely. **Hand shaking, hugging, standing and sitting close to one another, and any other activities that invite closeness will put you at risk for contracting COVID-19.** This is an extremely infectious disease that is costing the lives of loved ones and neighbors.”

As Methodists, we believe in the “Wesley Rules” to Do NO Harm, DO Good, and Stay in Love with God. Following our procedures will help us Do NO Harm and DO Good. We understand that it is hard not to give our church family members a hug. This is the way we show love. Maybe we should look at it differently. Let’s show our love by social distancing. Let’s say, “I love you and that is why I am choosing to protect you.”

We pray that you will choose to say I love you in this way because if we are not following guidelines and keeping each other safe, we will have no choice but to go back to virtual worship only. We all want to be able to worship in-person together. Below are the safety procedures in place for all of our protection:

## **Guidelines for in-person worship:**

### **PARKING**

You can park anywhere in the upper and lower lots. There will be a golf cart available for transportation to bring you to the front door if you are in need of assistance. The front door is the only door accessible for entry. Please refrain from using the back door.

### **ENTRY**

Everyone will enter through front main entrance only, maintaining 6-foot social distancing. Check-in will be in the Narthex. Please wait in line, maintaining 6-foot social distancing, until your turn to check in. Masks are required the entire time you are inside of the church & will be provided if no personal mask is worn. If you choose not to wear a mask, you will not be able to enter the church. Everyone will have their temperature taken and asked a series of screening “COVID Questions” (listed below). If your temperature is over 100.4, you will be asked to sit and wait a few minutes to get your temperature taken again. If the temperature is still over 100.4, you will not be allowed to enter the

church. We encourage you to return home and attend worship virtually through Facebook or Zoom. Everyone is asked to sanitize their hands before entering the church. After temperature scan, you will proceed to the check-in table to scan in or register for attendance. One laptop is set up for those who already have their FUMC Check-in cards and another for visitors and those who need/forgot their cards. Volunteers will record visitor information & record attendance of those who forgot their card. After checking in, you will proceed to the "Wait to be Seated" sign, at the back of the Sanctuary, for an usher who will seat you. Ushers are instructed to seat from front to back on alternate pews at 6-foot intervals.

For Communion Sunday, Communion elements will be handed out at the check-in table.

## **SERVICE**

During the worship service, there will be special music only. Due to the contagious nature of COVID-19, there will be no congregational singing. Communion will be held in pews with prepackaged individual elements. There will be waste baskets at doors for communion packaging on Communion Sunday. Offering container will be at entry/exit door.

## **DISMISSAL**

At the end of worship, ushers will dismiss each section from back to front. You will exit through main front door. There will be no gathering in Memorial Hall. Please maintain social distance if you greet each other outside.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH**

Downstairs will be closed, and the doors will be locked. There will be no use of elevator or stairways. There will be no gathering in Memorial Hall. Only the rest rooms off Memorial Hall will be open. If you need to use the restroom, users should wash/disinfect hands on entry and again after using the rest room; use a dry paper towel to open restroom door & discard in waste basket so do not touch door handle.

## **COVID QUESTIONS:**

- Have you or anyone in your household had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days: sore throat, cough, chills, body aches for unknown reasons, shortness of breath for unknown reasons, loss of smell, loss of taste, fever at or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit?
- Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19?
- Do you have any reason to believe you or anyone in your household has been exposed to or acquired COVID-19?
- To the best of your knowledge have you been in close proximity to any individual who tested positive, within the past 14 days, for COVID-19?