

# **Centenary United Methodist Church: COVID-19 Building Reopening Plan**

**(June. 15. 2021)**

Centenary is a vibrant part of our community and our congregants' lives. The cornerstone of our church is worshipping Christ in a welcoming and safe environment. While we love seeing each other and praising His Name in person, times have changed and we need to adapt. To fulfill our mission, we have developed this COVID-19 Reopening Plan.

## **COVID-19 Building Reopening Plan Committee**

Bruce Clarke (Co-Chair Reopening Plan, Vice-Chair Trustees), Virginia Giordano (CUMC member & medical professional), Carlston Gray (Trustees), Ruth Lechelt (Chair, Church Council), Rev. Sooah Na (CUMC Pastor), Nancy Rapp (Chair, Staff Parish Relations), Nicole Tierno (Sunday School Coordinator), Linda Serentino (Special Funds), Donavon Soumas (Director, Music Ministry), Scott Woodfield (Co-Chair Reopening Plan, Chair, Trustees), Sylvia Woodfield (Church Council), and John Wooding (Church Council).

## **Our Goal**

Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as together as we flatten the COVID-19 curve and ensure zero infections are spread by United Methodist activity. With this plan we hope to facilitate an environment in which people are safe and comfortable worshipping together so that we can have a greater connection with both God and each other.

Below is our plan for reopening our church, including specific guidelines/restrictions. This plan may need to be modified if public health officials issue further restrictions.

## **Basic Standards:**

- ✓ Individuals should not come to church if they have a fever (100.4 or higher), are exhibiting any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus (runny nose, coughing, shortness of breath, etc.), or have tested positive or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days. If any of these conditions apply, for your safety and the safety of our church community, please stay at home and utilize the online worshipping option.

## **Specific Guidelines/Restrictions**

### **1. Parking**

- No changes. Parking will be allowed in designated parking spaces in the front and back of the church and along Hillside Avenue. Please be mindful of the social distancing requirement when exiting your car and preparing to enter the church.

### **2. Restrooms**

- Sanitizing supplies will be left in each restroom. Contact surfaces should be sanitized before each use by the person using the bathroom.

### 3. Signage

- Signs will be posted throughout the building reminding people to wear a mask when on church property if they are not vaccinated.

### 4. Phased Reopening Plan:

First phase (June)	Second phase (July)	Third phase (August)
Outdoor Service + Online service	Indoor Service+ Online service	Indoor service (Live-streaming) service

#### First phase: Until June 27<sup>th</sup>:

1) Online Worship Service starting at 10:15 am

2) Outdoor Worship service

*Location/Time:* Front lawn starting at 9:30 am. Outdoor service weather dependent (12 hr. minimum notice will be provided for cancelation of outdoor service).

*Parking:* Cars will park in designated parking spaces in the front of the church and along Hillside Avenue.

#### *Seating:*

- Attendees will be responsible to bring their own chairs.
- Chairs should be spaced at least 6-feet apart to ensure social distancing.
- Families will be allowed to sit together but must maintain a minimum spacing of 6-feet from nearest neighbor.
- Masks are optional outside
- Outdoor hymn singing will be allowed.



#### Second Phase: Until July 25<sup>th</sup>:

1) Online Worship Service starting at 10:15 am

2) Indoor worship service at 9:30 am



### **Third Phase: Beginning August 1:**

1) Church Sanctuary with simultaneous live-streaming starting at 9:30 am (summer from August 1 – September 5) / at 10:15 am (beginning September 12, 2021)

2) Follow the reopening guideline until further notice.

#### 5. Indoor service guideline:

- a) For those who are fully vaccinated, masks are not required. Based on CDC guidance, **we request that all unvaccinated individuals wear a face covering (honor system) in indoors to protect yourself and others.**
- b) Water fountains are not available until further notice.
- c) Hygiene and hand sanitizers
  - Hand sanitizer will be available. (Ushers will notify the church office when inventory of masks, hand sanitizer, appropriate cleansers are getting low and the office will order new supplies.)
  - All commonly touched surfaces in the building will be sanitized by the custodian before Worship Service with CDC approved disinfectants.
  - Please do not shake hands, hug others, or make any other physical contact.
  - People present in the church will be expected to:
    - a) Wash hands or use hand sanitizer after touching shared surfaces.
    - b) Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
    - c) Cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing.
    - d) We will minimize touch-points during worship services as follows:
      - Offerings will be shared in stationary collection baskets located in the rear of the sanctuary. We will not be passing collection plates until further notice. We also continue to encourage people to give their offerings electronically, online or by check through the mail.
      - Ushers will be asked to complete a list of attendees for contact tracing.
      - Hard copies of bulletin will be provided.
      - There will be no use of Hymnals, Bibles or The Faith We Sing song books.

6. Postponed activities – until further notice, the following will **not be available**:

- Fellowship hour after Worship Services.
- Indoor congregational hymn singing or choir.
- Parent's room

7. Non-worship indoor gatherings

Church small groups and other meetings only, until further notice:

- Room 20 is available for small groups; to schedule, contact CUMC's Administrative Assistant.
- Masks are optional. Based on CDC guidance, we recommend unvaccinated individuals should continue wearing a face covering in indoors - to protect yourself and others.
- Maintaining a list of attendees for contact tracing is requested.
- No food or drink besides personal water bottles, until further notice.
- Sanitizing supplies will be left in each restroom. Contact surfaces should be sanitized before each use by the person using the bathroom.
- Extra masks will be available in the office and narthex if needed.
- Trustees may randomly check compliance.

8. Non-worship outdoor gatherings by non-church groups (indoor meetings are not allowed until further notice).

- Groups must contact church office to be placed on calendar.
- Groups must provide insurance certificates with CUMC as additional insured.
- Bathrooms may not be used.
- Masks and social distancing not required.
- Food and drink will be permitted on carry-in and carry-out basis.
- Group leaders must maintain a record of attendees for contact tracing purposes.
- Trustees may randomly check compliance. In the event protocols are not followed, the group may be barred from further use of our facility.

9. Updates to Reopening Plan:

- This plan will be modified as needed for your protection and safety.