



COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REACH, GROW, SEND WITH GOD'S LOVE

June 8, 2021

Dear Community UMC Brethren and Beyond,

Hope you are all well.

I mentioned in the Worship Service Broadcast last Sunday, June 6th, that we will finally have our first in-person worship after 15 months. This is very exciting for us who have been apart for a long time. With the effective roll-out of the vaccine and the percentage of the CoVid cases now dropping, we are now ready to see each other safely.

However, we are still in the middle of a pandemic, and we are still a faith circle that prioritizes the health and safety of ourselves and each other. So, here are some of the reminders that we would like to roll out to manage everyone's expectations on our first Sunday together physically:

1. We will still wear masks properly (covering the mouth and nose) at all times while we are inside the church building (sanctuary, hallways, restrooms, etc.). If you do not have a mask, we have available masks for you as you enter the building.
2. We will still implement/practice social distancing. We encourage folks to sit with your household as much as possible and do not occupy taped-off pews. We will not have any socialization time indoors (for now). For those who do not have mobility issues and not need the elevator, we request that you exit by the red door after the worship. Shaking of hands and hugging is still discouraged at this time. Let us continue to wave at each other.
3. We strongly encourage folks who are in the age-bracket that needed to be vaccinated to do so, as a way of protecting one's self as others. We need to be vigilant in making our congregation/sanctuary a safe physical space for every person who comes into our doors.

Additionally, here are some logistic details:

1. The only ministries that we are doing in-person for now is the Wednesday Bible Study and Worship. All the rest will remain as it is until further notice.
2. Every person who enters our doors will register with the Greeters and Ushers. They will also ask you important questions as part of our screening process. We will open the church doors as early as 9:15 am, so that we can accommodate every person coming without being late. You are also encouraged to wear a nametag so that I (Pastor Riva) will know your names.

3. Hand sanitizers will be available to be used whenever needed. Feel free to use them as often as you want/need to. As usual, hand washing is still the best way of being safe.
4. There will still be no coffee or treats before or after worship service. Hopefully, in the coming Sundays, we will be able to do that. We can all catch up safely (socially distanced) at the lawn after the worship.
5. Singing is still strongly discouraged. Therefore, the hymnals will not be in the pews. There will be limited number of folks who will be singing during the worship, but we are still discouraging the congregation to participate in singing even with masks. You are welcome to hum as our musicians are sharing their gifts.
6. Kindly follow signs that will be put up in terms of directions and instructions. Let us make sure that we follow safety guidelines accordingly.
7. There will be offering plates located in different parts of the sanctuary, you are encouraged to bring your offering before you sit in the pew – or after the service. (Communion is also being explored, watch out for the announcements.)
8. Live-streaming of the worship will still be provided for folks who may be uncomfortable being around a lot of people in an indoor setting. Your worship experience is more important, feel free to worship as how the Spirit is calling you.

We all have waited for this moment. It is our hope that our first time to be together will be memorable and life-giving for all of us. Let us continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus by embodying the radical hospitality of caring that he preached by caring for ourselves and our neighbors.

Blessings and Peace,



Pastor Riva and the Re-Entry AdHoc Committee

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

-Lamentations 3:22-23 (NRSV)

Additional Resource:

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/regatheringplan>