

Faith UMC's Re-Opening Plans

In an effort to return to worship safely, this plan would allow the church to adjust plans and expectations based on the county's advisory level as assigned on in.gov. To navigate to the next step, the advisory level must remain the same for at least two weeks. Any group planning an event must submit a safety plan to the Governing Council for approval in steps 1, 2, and 3.

STEP 1: Safer at Home

When the county is in the "RED"

Sunday Worship

- Indoor services will be virtual
- Outdoor services (April-September) will be physical distancing and masks* required

Weekly Programming

- Office remains open with essential staff
- All meetings are conducted online
- All indoor discipleship programming will be suspended or will go virtual including Life Groups, Growth Studies
- Outdoor programming with safety plan may be proposed to Governing Council
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols will be employed.

STEP 2: Minimal On-site Activity

When the county is in the "ORANGE"

Sunday Worship

- Limited, indoor, on-site worship may resume with 6-foot physical distance seating between family units, allowing for up to 125 persons in the Sanctuary
- Outdoor services (April-September) with 6-foot physical distancing and masks* recommended
- Masks* required indoors
- Anyone experiencing symptoms or close contact to someone with symptoms should remain safe at home
- No-contact worship service with no bulletins, offering plates or service greeting time
- Greeters and Hosts will remain no-contact
- Communion elements will be pre-portioned to remain no-contact
- There will be no congregational singing with the exception of instrumental music, soloists or special music as provided through video

Weekly Programming

- Meetings and Discipleship gatherings are masks* recommended and 6-foot distancing, virtual meetings preferred.
- Outdoor programming with safety plan may be proposed to the Governing Council
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols will be employed.

STEP 3: Vigilant Accommodations

When the county is in the “YELLOW”

Sunday Worship

- Limited, indoor, on-site worship with 6-foot physical distance seating between family units, allowing for up to 125 persons in the Sanctuary
- Outdoor services (April-September) with 6-foot physical distancing and masks* recommended
- Masks* recommended indoors
- Congregational singing is permitted for those wearing masks*
- Anyone experiencing symptoms or close contact to someone with symptoms should remain safe at home
- No-contact worship service with no bulletins, offering plates or service greeting time
- Greeters and Hosts will remain no-contact and will wear masks*
- Communion elements will be pre-portioned to remain no contact

Weekly Programming

- Meetings and Discipleship gatherings are masks* recommended and 6-foot distancing, virtual meetings preferred.
- Outdoor programming with safety plan may be proposed to the Governing Council
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols will be employed.

Step 4: A Cautious Return

When the county is in the “BLUE”

Sunday Worship

- Careful approach to more normal in-door services with enhanced seating in the sanctuary and modified fellowship time afterward
- Outdoor services (April-September) may continue with reduced restrictions
- Congregational singing allowed

Weekly Programming

- Return to in-person church activities including indoor special events
- Large performances, events, weddings and funerals may resume with approved safety plan
- All Discipleship gatherings may resume with approved safety plan
- Community groups and public building rentals may resume with an approved safety plan
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols will be employed.

*Masks are defined as a face covering worn over the nose and mouth.