

**COVID-19 Safety Plan & Protocols for  
On-site Worship  
Approved by Trustees  
10/29/20**

As we move inside for worship, and small group gatherings, we will strive to provide a safe, touchless experience with adequate social distancing in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth below. We recognize that these protocols may require some adjustments in the way we usually worship and the freedoms we had prior to Covid-19 to sit where and with whom we wanted. However, these plans have been prayerfully considered and designed to ensure all may attend worship services with the assurance that safety, respect and concern for all is of highest importance.

**By registering online or attending any event at the church, each attendee certifies that:**

- He or she has NOT had close contact (as defined by the NCDHHS as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or with COVID-19 symptoms;
- No health department nor health care provider has been in contact with the attendee and advised the attendee to quarantine; and
- He or she has none of the following symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - New cough
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat

**Worship Service in the Sanctuary:**

- Facility will be cleaned professionally before all services.

**Capacity and Registration:**

- In accordance with the North Carolina Phase 3 limitations and the guidelines released October 2, 2020 by the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, inside capacity for worship will be limited to 100 people or 30% of capacity, masked and social distanced. Those attending indoor worship must pre-register online in order to assure the limited capacity and to provide information for contact tracing, if necessary. The registration procedure will provide information about what to expect and safety protocols. **Our protocols and number of seats available may change as limitations are lifted as defined by the Western NC Conference. Documents will be updated at that time.** If for some

reason an attendee is not able to register online, the attendee will contact LuAnn Christy at [luann@mtpisgahgso.org](mailto:luann@mtpisgahgso.org) or 336-288-3321 for a reservation.

#### **Facility Preparation and Sanitization:**

- The worship space, including microphones, and the bathrooms will be cleaned after each service.
- Every other row will be closed in order to maintain recommended social distancing.
- Seating will be socially distanced (separated by at least 6 feet) and **assigned as you enter**. We will provide more than a minimum of 6 feet of distance between the worship leaders and the first pews as an added measure of protection from any droplet spray by worship leaders and pastors. Families can sit together. Interior doors will be propped open before, during and after the service to increase air flow. *Doors will only open 20 minutes prior to service.*
- Hand sanitizer and touchless thermometer will be inside the entrance doors and must be used by all attendees.
- Beverages and refreshments will not be allowed in the sanctuary.

#### **Attendance:**

- In accordance with NC state law, **masks are required** for all attendees. The only exception will be for worship leaders, at the time that they are **speaking or singing**. Attendees are required to bring their own masks, but we will have extra masks at the entrance if someone forgets. Masks must remain on while inside and must cover both nose and mouth. There should be no exceptions.
- To avoid crowding near the doorways, everyone will enter through the main door. **An usher will direct attendees to their seats starting at the front row and moving to the back.** Ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows and all will exit using the side doors nearest to their section where they are seated.
- Socializing should be limited to outside before and after worship. Masks should be worn. Greeting will be contact-free, with no hand-shaking or hugs.
- All information will be shown on screens or shared via e-news.
- Offering may be placed in baskets as you exit the sanctuary.
- Communion, when offered, will include pre-packaged elements in baskets, and will be distributed by masked and gloved ushers as attendees enter the sanctuary for worship.

#### **Outside Worship Service**

- Outside service begins at 10:30. Should weather prohibit attending, an announcement will be made via FB, email, and electronic sign by Saturday evening at 6:00 pm

## **Children Worship**

- At this time, there will be no children's services or nursery offered during inside worship services..
- Children's Sunday School will continue to be offered virtually.
- Children's Time will continue to be held for outside worship.

## **Inside Worship Service**

November 8th & 15th services will begin at 9am.

- LuAnn will open registration on November 2nd for the initial indoor service to be held on Nov. 8th **Sign-ups will be necessary each week..**

November 22nd and going forward services will be at 9am and 11:15am.

For adult Sunday School classes who desire to meet inside the church, the leaders must coordinate with Pam Inman. Beginning and ending times will need to be staggered for multiple classes meeting during the same time period.

## **Funeral Services/Special Services: Christmas Eve/Wednesdays/Longest Night, etc.**

- **Calculations for seating will follow those for regular inside worship service.**  
Maximum seating will be determined by sign-ups as family units may sit together but will still need a minimum of 6 feet between groups in order to maintain recommended social distancing.

## **Post-Worship Service:**

- If you receive a positive COVID-19 test after attending any service, the positive test results will be reported to the Guilford County Health Department. We ask that you provide the Health Department with the contact information for Pam Inman **at Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church ([pam@mtpisgahgso.org](mailto:pam@mtpisgahgso.org) or 336-288-3321).**

**COVID-19 Safety Plan & Protocols for  
Small Group Gatherings  
Approved by Trustees  
10/13/20**

As we move inside for worship, and small group gatherings, we will strive to provide a safe, touchless experience with adequate social distancing in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth below.

**By attending any event at the church, each attendee certifies that:**

- He or she has NOT had close contact (as defined by the NCDHHS as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or with COVID-19 symptoms;
- No health department nor health care provider has been in contact with the attendee and advised the attendee to quarantine; and
- He or she has none of the following symptoms:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - New cough
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat

**Small Group Gatherings:**

**NOTICE to ALL Committee and Group Leaders:**

The safety of all members and attendees of events at MPUMC is most important. In order to assure the safety of everyone attending any meeting or event at MPUMC, the Trustees require these protocols.

When attending meetings after regular church office hours, all attendees should enter by the office door which will be unlocked for scheduled meetings. If under any circumstances the Weekday School entrance is used, the same requirements would apply and no doors should be propped open at any time. The leader(s) or other designated person(s) should monitor the office entrance door by waiting outside the door or inside at the volunteer desk in order to admit participants. (Persons should not wait in the enclosed entrance due to lack of air movement).

**Under no circumstances should either of the glass doors ever be propped open.**

Exceptions would be during regular Sunday School hours or when other church-wide events are

in progress requiring access back and forth. Doors should be closed during church services. Keypads are to be used for entrance beyond the doors.

All committee and group leaders and staff must adhere to these requirements in order to keep our attendees and physical property safe.

- In accordance with the North Carolina Phase 3 limitations and the guidelines released October 4, 2020 by the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, capacity will be limited to 25 people. If a church-sponsored small group or ministry would like to request the use of a room in the church facility, a representative of such group should contact Pam Inman at [pam@mtpisgahgso.org](mailto:pam@mtpisgahgso.org) or 336-288-3321 to schedule the meeting. Only certain rooms which can accommodate social distancing and sanitization are available for use. Start times for multiple group meetings must be staggered.
- Attendees will provide information for contact tracing and attendance will be kept.
- Group leaders are responsible for sanitizing rooms after each use. Supplies are found in the hallway.

#### **Capacity and Registration: Attendance:**

- Group members must take the most direct path to the meeting space. Group members should not visit other areas of the church.
- The group representative must ensure that seating is socially distanced (separated by at least 6 feet) in the meeting space.
- In accordance with NC state law, **masks are required** for all attendees. Attendees are required to bring their own masks, but we will have extra masks at the entrance if someone forgets.
- Attendance lists at each meeting must be taken and kept in their group's mailbox or Pam Inman's mailbox.
- **Due to aerosol buildup in indoor spaces, classes and meetings are recommended to be no more than 1 ½ hours.**
- If multiple groups of 25 or less wish to meet, beginning and ending times must be staggered.

#### **Post-Attendance at MPUMC**

- **If you receive a positive COVID-19 test after attending any meeting or worship service, whether inside or outside, the positive test results must be reported to the Guilford County Health Department. We ask that you provide the Health Department with the contact information for LuAnn Christy, [luann@mtpisgahgso.org](mailto:luann@mtpisgahgso.org) or 336-288-3321. LuAnn will report to Pam Inman, Church Administrator, who will work with the Health Department on the church's behalf to assist with contact tracing.**

