



CENTREVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COVID-19 Phase 3 Plan

The “Stay Home” order from the Governor as a response to COVID-19 has been unprecedented. It has impacted all aspects of our day-to-day living, including participating in the worshipping community. Centreville UMC has sought to care for our neighbors by taking a conservative approach to encourage social distancing in order to limit the spread of the virus in accordance with guidelines from the State of Maryland and CDC. We have also been in contact with Queen Anne County’s Public Health Department for guidance as well. Recently, the State of Maryland was placed in Phase 3 of the recovery by Gov. Larry Hogan.

At the recent Administrative Council meeting, the following guidelines were discussed and approved:

Phase Three: Worship can Resume at 75% Capacity

We are currently worshipping at a 75% capacity in our facility. Our leadership believes that we will be able to gather with social distancing guidelines adapted for worship. Those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 will be encouraged to stay at home and utilize the online worship services through Facebook and the church website (<https://centreville-umc.com/>). Access to the online worship service will be available at both the 8:40am and 11am services each Sunday.

Guidelines for In-Person Worship

We ask that each person planning to attend worship self-check their temperature at home prior to arriving. If your temperature is elevated, please remain home and utilize our online worship option. Worshippers are also required to wear a mask while in the building.

Seating: Seating will take place in every other pew. Family Household Units may sit together, and we will ask non-household units to keep a minimum of six feet between your neighbors. (Consider sitting on the pew ends only which will give the at least 6 feet required between persons or family units).

No-Touch: There will be a strict “no-touch” policy during worship. You are encouraged to consider giving your offering and gifts to the church via online giving, through your bank, or mailing. There will be basket in the Narthex for those who do bring an offering (no formal offering will be done during the service). Communion will be served in pre-packaged communion cups to limit contact.

Bulletins and Handouts: Weekly bulletins and handouts will be produced during this phase. Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the Sanctuary during this phase. Scripture will be shared, and a message will be delivered during each service. Please take these with you when you leave worship.

Greeters and Ushers: Greeters and Ushers will be asked to refrain from shaking hands as parishioners enter and exit the building. The worship space and public areas will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized during the week. Doors will be propped open to prevent multiple people touching the same door.

Hand-Sanitizing Stations: Hands Free Hand Sanitizing stations are in place outside the sanctuary. We ask that each person please sanitize hands as they enter.

Singing: We will enter back into singing a little at time. (To begin we will have 2 songs or hymns that the congregation will be invited to join with singing.) Those in the congregation are required to wear a mask while singing. For those who are not comfortable with singing, the back two rows on the ground level on each side of the sanctuary will be reserved.

Other activities of the church and outside organizations:

We will be assessing the use of the building for Bible studies, Sunday School, and other church groups individually. Likewise, requests from outside groups will be evaluated as requested and once determined if the group can maintain proper CDC guidelines.

Bulleated Version of the Plan

Phase Three: Physical Gathering at 75% Capacity Under Strict Guidelines

- Worship held at 8:40am and 11:00am weekly
- Seating will be in every other pew
- Maintain six feet of distance between household unit
- Masks required to be worn during worship including while singing
- Strict “no-contact” during worship
- Bulletins and Handouts will be provided for use in worship. Please take them home with you.
- Offering is encouraged to be given via online giving, through your bank, or mail a check. Those giving in person will utilize baskets at the exit of each worship space
- Communion will be celebrated using the pre-packaged wafer and cup. It will be distributed by those wearing masks and gloves.
- Hand Sanitizer station is available for use at the entry of the Sanctuary
- Singing will be re-introduced during worship with a limited number of songs to begin and masks must be worn. Seating will be available in the back of the sanctuary for those who choose not to sing yet.
- Make every effort to clean and disinfect the Sanctuary and public spaces after worship

Please note that the church office is open currently from 9am-1pm Monday-Friday. If you have a need, please contact the church office at 410-758-0868 or email at office@centreville-umc.com. You can reach Pastor Karen at 302-245-4221 or khandy@centreville-umc.com.