



St. Paul
United Methodist Church
"Living Life N Christ!"

Frequently Asked Questions For Resuming Worship

June 2020

When will worship reopen on campus?

- Sunday, June 28th, at 10:30am.

How was this date decided?

- Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the North Georgia Annual Conference selected this date in prayerful consultation with the Cabinet and medical expertise from but not limited to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Rollins School of Medicine at Emory University.

Who made up the St. Paul Re-Entry Planning Team?

- Our staff, members from our Worship Team, Finance and Trustees, as well as other members who have expertise on medical wellness and church cleanliness.

How can I join worship on and after June 28th, 2020?

- There are three ways you can join us for worship:

1. In the sanctuary:

- a. Only 40 persons will be able to attend in the sanctuary. This is due to our main priority: ensuring your health and wellness while on campus. You can see guidelines for those who attend in our original document: Guidelines for Resuming Worship On Campus.
- b. These persons will be invited on a first come, first serve basis.
- c. You will find the places where you can sit by the taped markers on the top of each pew.

2. Praise in the Parking Lot:

- a. You are invited to join us by congregating on campus in **one of our three parking lots**: one immediately next to our sanctuary, next to our Christian education building, and one in between the houses adjacent to the church off of Hunter Street. While there you can join us for live streaming from the safety of your vehicle on YouTube @spumc705 or Facebook Live.

3. Online from your home:

- a. We will no longer be using Zoom on Sundays for worship except in an emergency. You can live stream worship from your home via our Facebook and YouTube Channels @spumc705.

How many persons can attend worship in the sanctuary? What time will the sanctuary be open?

- 40 persons of the worshipping congregation will be able to sit in the pews . (This does not include the musicians or Pastor King). The sanctuary will be open beginning at 9:30am for persons to enter and will close shortly after worship has concluded.

What happens if I come to worship in the sanctuary, but the sanctuary has already reached the maximum of 40 congregant worshippers?

- Don't fret! You will be lovingly invited by our ushers to join us for worship through Praise in the Parking Lot in one of our three campus parking lots.

I read that persons over 65 are asked to join worship on June 28th only through Praise and the Parking Lot and online, not in the sanctuary. Why is that?

- Great question! One of the consistent findings of medical research locally and nationally is that people over 65 have an increased, higher risk of contracting the coronavirus due to decreased immunity at more senior ages of life.
- Our biggest goal is protecting your health. Given the fact that many thousands of people in have died from this pandemic, including our own Mr. Jackie Ramsey and Mr. Ernest Gilmore, we are *extremely* precautious about your safety. As our hospitality motto reminds us, this is how we love caring for you.
- After our first Sunday back, we will begin inviting more of our congregation back starting on Sunday, July 5th including our 65+ members.
- We do ask persons with immune system challenges or pre-existing conditions to use their own prayerful discretion about attending worship in the sanctuary.

What about facial masks? Will masks be provided on campus?

- We ask that all congregants wear facial masks **at all times** while on church campus. The lone exception for this those 1-2 persons who will be leading in worship when they are speaking at the chancel microphone; however, when they are not speaking, they will put their masks back on.
- Yes, we will have masks available on campus for those who need them in the vestibule area.

Will hand sanitizers be available?

- Yes, we will have hand sanitizer stations placed inside at several different locations inside the sanctuary.

Will printed bulletins be provided?

- No. Like our other measures, this is done to reduce the transmission of any germs or virus.
- Our Worship and Media Team are designing new ways that our congregation can engage in worship visually and through technology. Stay tuned for more information.

What about Communion on First Sunday and Prayer at the Altar?

- Please see the original document “Guidelines for Resuming On Campus Worship” under the section: Celebration of the Sacraments.

How can I bring my offering to church?

- Please see the attached Re-Entry Document from our Finance Committee in the email or on our church website.

What parts of the church campus will be open inside to the congregation?

- Only two areas: the sanctuary and the restrooms immediately adjacent to the sanctuary. The rest of the campus inside is still closed for the wider congregation excluding ministry leaders that must use other spaces. Again, all this is done to limit movement on the inside of the church building to *protect your wellness*.

Why can we not have live, in person-singing with choirs and praise teams for the foreseeable future? Why do medical experts request in person congregants who gather in sanctuaries to sing softly or only mouth the words to music?

- As Scripture says: “Life and death is held in the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). This has been demonstrated in human health and wellness as well. Medical research has consistently demonstrated that with deep throaty singing, the power of the human respiration system pushes particles from inside a human mouth into the air ***even past effective facial masks***. As we saw in March and April, church choirs who were disobedient to following these guidelines massively spread the virus, bringing sickness and death to their members. The most notable incident like this took place at a church in California.
- Until a vaccine is developed, expect for live-in person choir, praise team singing to be suspended at least until 2021.

If I plan to attend worship in the sanctuary or with Praise in the Parking Lot, is there WIFI available if needed?

- Yes, that information is forthcoming.

What about my school-age kids?

- Children and youth over infant age 4 are welcome to join worship in the sanctuary, in the parking lot and online. Young people who attend on campus are expected to wear facial masks like every other member. We ask that infants under four not be brought back until at least the first Sunday of July, though this date may be pushed back as our Worship Team evaluates worship weekly.
- Until we can ensure the safety of a nursery ministry, our Nursery will not resume.
- Each week, you can continue to find resources for our Kids and Youth in our Children's Corner in our Church Newsletter.
- We are continuing to develop virtual places of discipleship and care for our young people, but we need your help to do so. Please complete our Parent survey on our church website homepage at www.spumc705.org.

Why are the Bibles, Hymnals and Contact cards removed? Was the fellowship hall considered as a space?

- Removing our physical Bibles, hymnals and contact cards helps us prevent the spread of germs through physical touch.
- Yes, we have considered the Fellowship Hall as a space for persons to gather on campus. However, our research has demonstrated that mitigating risk for the virus includes limiting human movement and the spaces inside in which people travel inside a building. As time passes, opening the Fellowship will be on the table for the future.

Healthwise, how can I best take care of myself while on church campus and off campus?

- Great question! Here are some key tips for keeping yourself well in this season:
 1. Boost your immune system by eating plenty of immune boosting foods, like oranges, apples, broccoli, lemons, ginger and thyme. Also consider taking mineral vitamins like Vitamin C as a supplement, which can be found at any vitamin store.
 2. Increase your intake of antioxidant rich foods including kale, spinach, blueberries, strawberries, and dark chocolate.
 3. Reduce eating fried or processed foods as much as possible.
 4. Get plenty of rest.
 5. Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.
 6. Take your temperature regularly during the week.
 7. Take advantage of the free Covid-19 Testing resources offered by Hall County. We will share more information on sites when available.
 8. If you feel sick, are running a fever or exhibiting any symptoms associated with the coronavirus, please do call your primary doctor, the hospital and contact Pastor King. Keep yourself quarantined if this does take place.

Will the sanctuary be cleaned?

- Yes. Medical research has demonstrated is that the coronavirus dies after three days on physical surfaces. Even so, we have teams of members who have committed to clean the church after worship on Sundays during the week.

How do I greet my fellow worshipper and church family safely on campus?

- We know you are very excited to see each other; your Re-Entry team is excited to see you too! However, hugging and hand shaking is ***strongly*** discouraged. But you can use waving, torso or arm bumps for “passing the peace of Christ” when you see each other.

What about Bible Study, Corporate Prayer and Other Ministries?

- All of our other ministries of discipleship will still take place on our online and social media platforms. Sunday is the only day of the week that the congregation will be back on campus at this time. All information for our platforms can be found in the weekly church newsletter and on our website at www.spumc705.org.

Can I Get an Amen?

- ***Amen!***

What if I have more questions, comments or feedback?

You are always welcome to call Pastor King at 470.728.9288 or email him at rev.robertsking@gmail.com. You can also reach out to our Worship Team at our church email: spumc705@gmail.com.

Thank you for your patience and understanding St. Paul! Here at St. Paul, we love caring for you!