

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Healthy Church Team

Introduction

This document defines the process Ebenezer United Methodist Church (EUMC), will adhere to in order to return to limited, in person worship.

Team Members

Debbie Messick, Council Chairperson

Larry Jenkins, Co-Lay Leader

Jeanne Axtell, Co-Lay Leader

Cindy Flickinger, Worship Chairperson

David English, Head Usher

Kay Duprey, Trustees Representative

Kathryn Gillions, Public Health Nurse

Fran Taylor, PPR Chair

Rebecca Rumburg, Pastor

In an effort to comply with both the guidelines/requirements set forth by the State of Virginia and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, the team recommends the following plan of

General Information

1. EUMC plans to host 1 worship service per week. The service will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00a.m. The Worship Service will comply with the requirements contained in this plan.
2. Worship services will continue to be made available over the internet. Services may be broadcast live or recorded and made available via Facebook and via telephone as they have been since the cessation of in-person services in March.
3. Services will be limited to 50 persons, current sanctuary capacity is around 125.
4. As a means of ensuring the church does not exceed its restricted, maximum seating capacity, it will be necessary for all those planning to attend a service to register by going to the church website or calling the church at least 4 days prior to the start time of the service they are planning to attend. Childcare will not be provided.

Healthy Church Team

5. Only those who have registered will be permitted to attend the service.
6. The Va Conference of the UMC has provided a web site that attendees will be required to visit at least 24 hours prior to attending the service to complete a Health Status form online or upon arrival at the church for Worship. One form must be completed for each person who will be attending a service. A form must be completed each week. Completion of one form is good for all services attending within seven days of submitting the form.
7. For the first 3 weeks a specific communication will be sent to members explaining the new requirements for masks, distancing, health check and providing links to:
 - a. The church's website for registration
 - b. The conference website to complete the Health Acknowledgement form
8. Each week as part of a weekly email communication, members will be reminded of the following:
 - a. Do not attend any service if any member of the family/attendee group is not feeling well or is displaying symptoms of COVID-19. A link to the Health Status form will be provided in the email.
 - b. Do not attend if having been in contact in the last 14 days with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19.
9. Although we value our volunteers, if you have volunteered to help at a service and do not feel well on that day, please contact your volunteer coordinator and have someone else take your place.

Preparing the Church

1. An usher will be positioned in the parking lot and will be responsible for encouraging each family/attendee group to remain 6 feet or more apart and to remind everyone that masks are required for everyone entering the church.
2. Ushers or members of the Healthy Church Team will ensure there are no materials, bibles, paper, etc in the backs of pews in the sanctuary, vestibule or narthex.
3. Access to areas of the church other than the narthex, the sanctuary, and the hallways leading to the restrooms will be cordoned off so they are clearly off limits.
4. All surfaces that may be touched by an attendee will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes or sprayed with disinfectant spray as appropriate prior to each service. These surfaces include but are not limited to:
 - a. Pew backs and frames adjacent to the seat shall be wiped.
 - b. Upholstered seating shall be sprayed.
 - c. Handles of all doors accessible to any attendee; restrooms, main door,ect.

Healthy Church Team

In-Person Worship

1. All attendees of the service must wear a mask from the time they exit their vehicle to the time they reenter their vehicle.
2. Attendees may utilize the driveway circle to drop off.
3. Attendees are encouraged to only exit/enter their vehicle when no one is exiting/entering a vehicle on either side of the attendee.
4. Families, attendee groups and individual attendees must maintain 6 feet distance between themselves and the nearest party while walking from their vehicle to the church.
5. Entry to the church will be through the sanctuary door facing the upper parking lot. The doors to the fellowship hall will remain locked. A gloved usher will open the door for attendees.
6. Attendees are encouraged to go directly into the sanctuary and select seats as directed by the usher (s). They shall also refrain from physical contact of any kind with anyone who is not a member of their family/attendee group.
7. Families/attendee groups shall select seats that conform to the size of the group. No one may sit closer than 6 feet from anyone they do not reside with.
8. Those on stage must maintain 6 feet distancing at all times.
9. Singing is not permitted.
10. At the conclusion of the service ushers will direct attendees to exit starting from the front of the sanctuary to the back, row by row. In services in which Communion is observed, attendees will exit as directed by the ushers and each family/attendee group/individual will pick up the sacraments from a tray in the narthex as they exit the church. The sacraments are not to be consumed at the church.
11. Gloved ushers will direct attendees to exit via the door located next to the handicap accessible ramp.
12. Families, attendee groups and individuals should maintain 6 feet distance between themselves and any other group or individual until they reach their vehicle.
13. In the parking lot, attendees are encouraged to only exit/enter their vehicle when no one is exiting/entering a vehicle on either side of the attendee.
14. One person maximum will be allowed in a restroom at a time. Restrooms will be cleaned as necessary. Social distancing must be practiced unless there are multiple members of the same family/attendee group.
15. Offerings will be received as attendees leave worship. Containers will be made available for attendees to place offerings in as they exit the sanctuary. No offering plates will be passed.
16. Counters will be needed to count offering following worship. Gloves will be provided for offering counters. Volunteers will be needed to serve as counters.

Timeframe: Soft opening worship service Sunday, August 23, 2020. Possible outdoor worship following all TAM expectations for outdoor worship may take place at some point in August or September based on initial in person worship response.