

Covid-19 Congregational Update
Reopening Plans
6/26/2020

Dear Main Street Church family & friends,

We know that many of you are looking forward to gathering again in-person as a church family and are wondering when that might happen. Although the current environment's unpredictability makes that difficult to commit with certainty, **our Administrative Council has set Sunday, August 2, 2020 as a tentative date for reopening.**

As a faith community, we love you and take seriously the need to care for our community – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Guiding our thought process in reaching this tentative date, and in further assessing the situation in the coming weeks, are three simple rules that guide us as a United Methodist Church:

- **We are a people that do no harm.** We practice physical distancing to minimize harm to others, especially the vulnerable.
- **We are a people that do all the good we can.** We care for the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, providing food, emotional support, and supporting our health care system.
- **We are a people that stay in love with God.** When we love God through prayer, praise, and worship, we grow in love of our neighbor. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

Why have we landed on Sunday, August 2nd?

- We are finalizing protocols that meet the Minnesota Department of Health and CDC guidelines which contain the following:
 - policies and procedures that assist in the identification of sick staff and ensure they stay home;
 - implementation of engineering and administrative protocols for physical distancing;
 - staff and volunteer hygiene and source controls;
 - building and ventilation protocols;
 - cleaning and disinfecting protocols;
 - drop-off, pick-up and delivery protections and protocols; and
 - communications and training practices and protocols.
- We are seeking to maintain the quality of both in-person and online services. Our recent survey shows that there is continued interest in both formats at this time.
- We have been blessed to assist St. Francis UMC, and want to allow some time for this faith community to transition as well.

What will it look like as we move forward?

- We must establish a cleaning team to help sanitize before and after gathering. This team will wipe down chairs, doors, door handles, and other high touch areas. If you are willing and able to help, please reach out to our Administrative Council.
- To provide names of those in attendance if a case of Covid-19 is connected to Main Street Church, we will use Eventbrite to sign up for Sunday morning worship services. More information on this (and what to do if you are for any reason unable to use this technology) will be communicated closer to August.
- Because we desire to do no harm to our those we know and love, all people in attendance must wear a face mask (unless unable to do so due to a disability) to protect others.
- We will maintain a physical distance of 6' between families and/or individuals. We have removed many chairs in the worship center to help accommodate. This means we will be limited to 60 people in attendance.
- There will not be a gathering time with coffee or food before or after services.
- For additional information, please go to <https://www.mainstreetfamily.org/covid-19-response.html> and refer to the reopening plans.
- We will maintain an online option for those who are not ready for an in-person experience.

The Administrative Council will meet again on Thursday, July 9 to review progress and determine if we remain on schedule to move forward. This will include a review of the Covid-19 pandemic situation along with CDC, MDH, and Minnesota Annual Conference of UMC recommendations. During this season please keep in mind, we are on virus time, not our time. Also, all plans to reopen are subject to change based on the current and changing conditions within our church and community.

We would like to thank you for your patience and prayers as we discuss, pray, and discern where God is leading us next. We are also grateful for those who have provided feedback through our online survey and other means as we seek to move forward during this Covid-19 pandemic. Please continue to pray for our community. Now is an opportunity for us to be the church whether we are meeting in a building together or not.

In Christ,

Administrative Council

Dave Kalina, Adam Trampe, Brad Brunet, Julie Brunet, Wally Heidelberger, Debi Grover, Rebecca Rakow, Pastor Ralph Holbrook