

## Andrews Chapel UMC In-Sanctuary Reopening Policy

### 1) Before you Come

- a) **Learn** if you fall within the CDC definition of an at risk person. If so, you are strongly encouraged to educate yourself about the potential risks of gathering in person in order to make the most informed decisions for your sake and your loved ones. The CDC defines the at risk population as follows:
  - i) Anyone over the age of 65
  - ii) Anyone with pre-existing health risks or complicationsMore research and information is available through the [CDC website](#).
- b) **Explore** online alternatives. We will continue to offer online worship and explore alternative ways to connect with worship and small groups for the foreseeable future. If you are interested in these options or need help figuring out the technology, please let the church office know and we will do our best to help you connect!
- c) **Stay** home if you have been recently exposed to someone with Covid-19 OR if you exhibit any of the following new or worsening symptoms:
  - i) Fever over 100 degrees, cough, chills, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, diarrhea, muscle pain, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, headache
- d) **Expect** that we will provide weekly cleaning of our used spaces as well as occasional certified cleaning services throughout all our facilities.
- e) **Plan** to make adjustments as we figure out how we, as a church, are going to move forward subject to the uncertainties of COVID and its variances. In addition to the below information, you should also know that the nursery will not be open and children/youth events will not take place. Children are welcome in the sanctuary and we would love for you to worship with us as a family, but we are happy to explore other options if you feel it would be too difficult to come in person right now.

### 2) Arrival and General Expectations

- a) In times of uncertainty and change, it is vital that we commit to upholding shared expectations as a church community. Upholding these expectations, even if we may not completely agree or follow them elsewhere, is a simple but meaningful way to value community safety and cohesion over individual comfort or choice.
- b) You are encouraged to **limit the personal items** you bring in. This will reduce the possibility of contact spread of the virus.
- c) **Entrances and exits will be limited** to help control traffic patterns. Please pay attention to signage and directions.

- d) **Greeters will be present** at the doors to offer hand sanitizer, face masks, and any other helpful directions to arriving guests.
- e) **Face masks must be worn** by all persons on campus when more than 10 people are expected to attend a gathering. Masks will be available at entry doors until supplies run out.
- f) **Handshakes and hugs are discouraged** while in attendance. Even if you are ok with potential risk, asking permission and following the lead of the more cautious person are vital ways to express welcome to those who desire in person interaction, but may have more concerns for their health or that of their loved ones.
- g) **Total occupancy and seating will be limited** , so RSVPs are strongly encouraged to help us prepare. (Overflow seating will not be available.)
- h) **No restrooms** will be open.
- i) **No food service will be provided.** Water fountains will not be available, nor will we have coffee, donuts, or other food stations set up.

### 3) Worship changes

- a) Participants will be asked to **sit 6ft from others** who are not in their family group.
- b) Hymnals, bibles, envelopes, and other **items in the pews will be removed** . The bulletin will only be available in electronic format and sent out on Friday. If you want a paper copy, you will have to print one at home.
- c) **Alternating pews will be closed** to facilitate social distancing requirements. The balcony will also be closed.
- d) The **greeting time will be cancelled** or substantially altered to discourage physical contact.
- e) We will have music led by our staff and/or on video, but congregational **singing will be limited** and discouraged as it is thought to be a primary means of viral spread.
- f) **No offering plates** will be passed. You are encouraged to set up online giving or mail in offerings. There will be a basket in the sanctuary if you prefer to give in person.
- g) Participants will be **dismissed by the ushers** to help maintain traffic flow.

### 4) Greeters/Ushers/Staff

- a) Those serving as greeters, ushers, or staff will be expected to know, maintain, and model all of the above expectations.
- b) Greeters, ushers, and staff will also:

- i) Wear masks any time they are interacting with the church/public at large (such as greeters holding open doors or ushers dismissing by pews) whether or not masks are otherwise required.
- ii) Encourage adherence to the above policies and be willing to gently remind others of our shared expectations if they are not being met.
- iii) Alert the pastor or another hope team member if there are questions regarding policy or if anyone refuses to adhere.

## **5) Other Events**

- a) Other events and gatherings to be held on church property:
  - i) Must obtain approval from the Trustees before resuming in person events.
  - ii) Must adhere to general expectations at least as strict as those listed above. (such as - an event organizer may limit occupancy even more than required by social distance protocols or require masks even if less than 10 attendees)
  - iii) Must designate a leader and/or contact person to ensure up to date policy expectations, adjustments, or concerns can be communicated
- b) Other events and gatherings advertised by ACUMC, but held elsewhere:
  - i) Must obtain approval from the Trustees before any advertising on church grounds or through church publications takes place.
  - ii) Must designate a leader and/or contact person to ensure up to date policy expectations, adjustments, or concerns can be communicated
  - iii) Is encouraged to adhere to as many of the general church protocols as possible.
  - iv) Must inform potential participants of any differences between the expectations for such events and gatherings from those listed above.
    - (1) If groups will be substantially altering expectations, they are strongly encouraged to create a written covenant to specify the expectations of the group.
    - (2) If there are substantial changes and no such concrete expectations are available for potential participants, the church will not advertise or otherwise promote those events and gatherings.

