



HOPEWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COVID19 REOPENING GUIDELINES MAY 2021

Over the past year, the leadership teams of Hopewell United Methodist Church have taken the health and safety of our congregation and community very seriously. As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, the church building has remained closed for indoor worship and group gatherings.

As of May 11th, 2021; the cases of COVID19 in our area continue to show downward trends and vaccines are now widely available to anyone living in New Jersey over the age of 12. As a result of these factors, and from the expressed desire from our congregation members both through surveys and personal conversations; the HUMC Administrative Council has unanimously voted to reopen the church for indoor worship and small group gatherings as of June 1st, 2021.

According to NJ State Government COVID19 mandates and regulations, if there is no unexpected surge in COVID-19 numbers, as of Wednesday, May 19, indoor religious services and celebrations may be held at 100 percent of a room's capacity, but no more than 250 individuals, so long as social distancing can be maintained.

Combining suggestions on safe gatherings from both NJ State and the Greater NJ Annual Conference of the UMC, the Hopewell UMC Administrative Council has approved the following guidelines for returning to indoor worship and small group gatherings:

Indoor Worship:

- Masks will be required for all persons until further notice.
- Pews will be marked off for seating in accordance with 6-foot social distancing regulations.
- To increase air circulation windows and doors will be opened during worship, and fans will be turned on.
- All persons should avoid direct contact, including handshakes and hugs, with others outside of their household.
- Hand sanitizer is available at entry doors and designated sanitizing stations.
- Online registration with health screening, if someone hasn't registered online the greeter or usher gives them a form.
- Bathroom one in, one out rule.
- Vulnerable people? Take extra precautions with older people, people with asthma, liver disease, hypertension, health conditions and disabilities.
- Services will continue to be livestreamed for those of you who will not be able to attend in person.
- Nursery care will be available.

**Projected Date for return to indoor worship:
June 6th (first Sunday in June)**