



Saint Andrews
United Methodist Church

Reopening Task Force Update

July 1, 2020

Friends,

The Reopening Task Force was organized to determine a course of action for our membership to reopen in-person worship services in one space while navigating through the circumstances in which we find ourselves as a result of COVID-19. The group met again on June 25th to continue mapping our return to worship.

Our church leadership and staff remain committed to nurturing the spiritual well-being of our members while working to ensure their physical well-being. Sharing the love of Jesus is what St. Andrews does best, so we need to lean forward as best we can, being flexible to our ever-changing circumstances. With Governor Cooper's extension of Phase 2 until at least July 17th, we will continue with the variety of virtual worship and fellowship experiences we have been offering, which include:

- Worship via Facebook Live and YouTube
- Mon-Wed-Fri evening devotionals via Facebook Live and YouTube
- Book Club and WOW with Ms. Stacey
- Thursday Night Virtual Coffee Talk + Bingo
- Tuesday Night Racial Healing study
- Various Zoom children, youth and Sunday School activities

As stated in our original Task Force letter, we plan to return to worship during Phase 3 of our State's plan and with guidance from our Bishop and the NC Conference of the UMC and when it is safe for our staff, members and visitors. We demonstrate our love for one another by complying with mandated guidelines and restrictions. Please keep in mind, when we do return, worship is going to feel very different from the experience we left over 100 days ago. While the Task Force works on a more detailed list of practices for when we come together, here are a few highlights:

- Worship will take place in the Great Room of the new Family Life Center. This space will accommodate the most persons while allowing for appropriate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the entry and other high traffic areas for all to freshen their hands.
- Face masks will be required.
- Worshippers will be asked to refrain from shaking hands and exchanging hugs in church.
- All children are welcome and will be asked to stay with family during children's time.
- No nursery or children's church activities will be available during the service.
- Hymnals, Bibles, bulletins and pens will be removed. You are encouraged to bring your own Bible.
- Collection baskets will be available for you to drop your offering in.
- No coffee or refreshments will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own coffee, bottled water, etc.
- A trained team will sanitize chairs, doors, equipment, restrooms and other high traffic areas after the service.

- You will be asked to refrain from entering any other portion of the church including the Preschool classrooms, the kitchen, the sanctuary, the narthex, Sunday school classrooms, the church office, etc.

We lean forward yearning for the time when we will return to worship in one space, together as the community of faith we long to be. Until that time, we must continue to rely upon the guidance from our conference, state and federal leaders.

Lastly, we ask each of you to take seriously the state requirement to wear a face mask. This is an act of love protecting your brothers and sisters in Christ from any infection that you may carry without symptoms or knowledge. Please, wear a face mask. We have a supply of face masks for those who may not have one. With the number of COVID cases on the rise in North Carolina, this simple act can make a huge difference in our community.

Thank you for your faithfulness and encouragement as we take the next best steps together.

Lisa Anthony, Chair of Administrative Council
Parker Watson, Lay Leader
Cathy Olsen, Chair of Staff-Parish Relations
Merlin Young, Chair of Trustees
Claude Jenkins, Chair of Finance
Vann Spivey, Pastor
Lisa Jones, Financial Administrator
Iris Senzig, Chair of Safety Committee
Stacey Thomas, Director of Children's Ministries
Sarah Cope, Immediate Past Chair of Administrative Council
Doug Harwood, Past Chair of Administrative Council, Worship Coordinator
Sarah Carey, Nurse
Evelyn Tay, Nurse
Ardys Sandell, Retired Methodist Minister