



COVID-19 UPDATE

United Methodist Church of Merced

09/17/2020

Reopening Taskforce Update

The UMCM Reopening Taskforce continues to work diligently on discerning, planning and implementing the best strategy for getting us back into worship at church. This taskforce (Steve Landis, Adam Durbin, Nancy Reding, Denise Rohm, Betty Avery, Nadine Weisbrod, Kelly Bentz, Tom Pfeiff and, Rev. Ella), meet weekly to further the processes and preparation. In addition to adhering to denominational, state, county, and city guidelines, we are concerned with contextualizing our reopening for the best possible results. Here are some of the highlights of our work thus far:

- **Preparing the facilities for on-site worship**
 - Protocol for sanitizing
 - Plan for social distancing seating and facility use
- **From arrival to the parking lot to the front door**
 - Mask required
 - Registration for attendance
 - Thermometer
 - Screening questions
 - Parking
 - Marking social distancing for entrance
- **From the Front door, to entrance, and seating**
 - Plan for training ushers and guides
 - Entrance and seating by family groups
 - Personal Protection Equipment for all staff/leadership
- **Worship**
 - No singing
 - Music traditional and contemporary
 - Lyrics for the purposes of reading only
 - Multimedia use
 - Recording/live for online services
 - No paper handouts
 - Offering in central no-touch location
- **Compliance and protocol for inside the building**

Masks at all times
Shields for leadership
Hand sanitizer readily available
Only one bathroom accessible (Garden side)
One directional travel inside sanctuary
No contact

- **Upon exiting the building to getting back to vehicles**
Guided dismissal
No open table coffee/snack time
- **Supplies**
Ordered and on hand
Looking into UV light/sprayer for sanitizing
- **Communications**
Two weeks notice before reopening
Updates monthly around the 15th
- **Will do survey to measure willingness to attend/participate/comply**
Types of worship (indoor/outdoor)
- **Sanitizing the facilities after worship**
Required after any onsite events
- **Emergency preparedness Plans**
Medical
Weather-related
Active shooter/aggressive intruder

Additionally, the taskforce is looking at 2 reopening options: 3-tier or 4-tier. Results from membership input will help determine whether to use 3 or 4 steps.

Reopening Possibilities include: Two weeks notice either starting point (Tier 1, or Tier 2)

TIER 1 Outdoor Worship (courtyard)

Worship Service
Three weeks of successful and safe results at all levels

Tier 2 Indoor Worship (sanctuary)

Worship Service
Three weeks of successful and safe results at all levels

Tier 3 Sacred Gatherings Opening

All other onsite events for spiritual life of the church such as Bible Study, memorials, weddings... with protocols
Calendar approval required
Protocol Training Required

Tier 4 Facilities open to public

Opened to fundraisers, and other groups, events
Facilities reservation required
Compliance Agreement Required

From start to completion, the process can take either 8 weeks, or 11 weeks at minimum, assuming progress continues on a favorable trajectory. We are committed to providing an update report around the 15th of each month.

We appreciate your prayers, concern and patience. We all want to get back to worshipping together in the safest and fastest manner possible. **Please look for the survey over the next couple of weeks, and provide your insights as we are dependent on you to help us respond appropriately. If you would like to offer assistance, have questions, or need information** specific to any of the work areas, please contact the church offices at (209) 722-5777, pastor@umcmerced.org, or adam@umcmerced.org. Please make the subject line: Reopening Taskforce.

We pray health and blessing on you and ask your prayers for our guidance, wisdom, and success in bringing us back together. In the meantime, please **Worship with us online** at www.umcmerced.org.

Peace and health to you,

Your UMCM Reopening Taskforce,

Pastor Ella, Adam, Steve, Denise, Nadine, Kimberly, Nancy, Betty, Tom, and Kelly