



May 26, 2020

Guidelines for Opening our Facilities for Worship and CUMC Events During Yellow Phase

Note: The following draft of guidelines for opening CUMC was taken from a publication by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that was released on May 22, 2020. One thing that has become clear throughout the past weeks regarding the current pandemic is that we are continuing to learn more about the COVID-19 disease. As we learn more, the recommendations for avoidance and treatment of COVID-19 continuously evolves. Therefore, these guidelines will also continue to evolve as warranted.

- It is critical that CUMC continuously monitors the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DoH) guidelines regarding current mitigation levels in and around the Carlisle community.
- Immediately inside all entrances to the church and at all entrances to the sanctuary have available personal protection equipment (“PPE”). At a minimum this should consist of a supply of disposable gloves, face masks, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and disinfectant wipes. A supply of facial tissues (Kleenex) should also be available. Those attending a service or event should bring their own mask.
- Post signs throughout the building regarding the proper way to wash hands and also one on how to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Wearing of masks for those entering the building as required by the CDC and/or DoH for everyone except those with medical conditions.
- Gatherings more than that stated by the CDC and/or DoH are prohibited.
- Remove items in the pews and classrooms that are not easily sanitized and/or disinfected, including hymnals, Bibles, and attendance pads.
- Encourage those attending classes to bring their own Bibles or install a Bible on their phones.
- Shaking hands and/or similar contacts between individuals will be discouraged.
- Entrances and exists will be marked in a manner to avoid grouping of individuals to the extent practicable.
- No food should be provided or shared by members of any group. Individuals may bring their own food or drink.
- Under the guidance and direction of our pastors, the Leadership Council should continue to develop ways to nurture our congregants emotionally and spiritually while complying with all CDC and DoH regulations.
- Recreational activities will occur in accordance with the CDC and/or DoH guidelines.
- Entry during the week (Monday-Friday 9am-4 pm) is only possible through the Church Office door. Please follow instructions posted on the door for entry.
- Entry during the evenings (Tuesday or Thursday evenings 6-9 pm) is only possible through the Parking Lot Door. Please follow instructions posted.

- Tell the congregation through flyer, email, social media, etc. about how we have prepared the church for their arrival.

If/When Worship Resumes in Yellow Phase...

- Greeters will have doors open to enter and exit the building.
- Greeters should not shake hands but offer a warm vocal “Welcome.”
- Place some kind of blocks in the sanctuary and in the classrooms to ensure social distancing – Tape, remove chairs, cones, e.g.
- Pastors will no longer greet congregants at the rear of the church.
- Encourage congregants to practice safe social distancing to the extent practicable.
- Discontinue the passing of an offering plate. Develop a new procedure for accepting offerings at worship services. One suggestion would be to use the election boxes and place them at strategic locations in or near the sanctuary.
- Discontinue the handing out of bulletins by ushers in its present format. Develop a new procedure for passing out bulletins and other church literature at worship services. One suggestion would be to have them handed out by ushers or others wearing gloves and following safe sanitation practices.
- In conjunction with the pastors and the Leadership Council liaison on worship, develop appropriate guidelines on communion, baptism and other worship experiences that typically involve close interaction among congregants and/or the pastors.
- In conjunction with Connie Leitner, Chris Gregory, the Leadership Council liaison on worship and the pastors, develop appropriate guidelines for continuing to worship God through CUMC’s excellent music program while protecting all involved to the extent practicable.

REMEMBER: Faith over Fear & Prayer over Panic