

CUMC REOPENING TEAM REPORT

May 20, 2020 Meeting

The CUMC Reopening Team conducted its first meeting on May 20, 2020. Kerm Leitner will serve as chair. Each member of the team will be leading a specific area as the church moves into the YELLOW phase of the COVID-19 restrictions and then into the GREEN phase. Pastor Jim VanZandt will lead the identification of requirements for each ministry or building user to follow while using the facility. Bill Bunt will lead the writing of guidelines which will lead to a church-wide pandemic policy. Pastor Mira Hewlett will design a survey to ascertain members' thoughts and feelings about returning to church and church activities. Kathy Charette will be creating a cleaning protocol to follow to maintain the building sanitation during this pandemic. Ron Chiprano will identify locations where groups of 25 or less will be able to gather outside the building in a socially distanced manner. Kerm will develop a timeline for reopening. Bob Goeltsch will assist the members of the team as a lay advisor. We will review the guidance provided on the Commonwealth of PA (PA.gov) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov) websites on a continuous basis.

As previously announced, the Little Lights Learning Center (LLLC) will reopen on June 1. The parking lot entrance will be restricted for the use by LLLC staff, children and parents between the hours of 5:30 am – 6:30 pm until further notice. Other users will be restricted to using the office entrance on S. West Street during the office operating hours listed below. All LLLC staff and children over two years of age will be wearing masks.

Also, on June 1, the office will begin a gradual reopening. Office hours will run from 9am to noon Monday through Friday, June 1 through June 12. Starting on June 15, the office will return to its regular hours of 9am to 4pm. Staff will be encouraged to work normal hours starting on June 1, and will be required to work normal hours starting on June 8. Anyone entering the building must wear a mask throughout the building unless alone in his/her own office. All meetings must be held in a room large enough for social distancing.

Next week, we will begin to announce additional reopening information. Only groups scheduled to resume activities will have access to the building. This will ensure that the areas that have been sanitized remain sanitized for the next use by LLLC and our ministries. Evening ministries will use the parking lot door for access between the hours of 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm only.

As LLLC and the offices open at the same time, our custodial staff will be asked to clean and sanitize those areas throughout the day. The increased amount of cleaning will be monitored and the impact on the custodians will be analyzed, as we look toward reopening other ministries and activities.

The reopening will take time. When the Leadership Council voted to shut down worship services and all activities on March 16, it simply turned the switch to OFF. In reopening, the Leadership Council does not have the luxury of just turning that switch back ON. It

will be much more like using a dimmer on a light switch. It has been recommended that churches adopt a CRAWL, WALK and then RUN mentality in planning their re-openings, and we have embraced that thinking. We ask for your patience and understanding as we slowly move forward. It is our hope to reopen CUMC at our present facility before we move, and presently we have no idea when our church services will resume.