



Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.

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Rev. Michael Collins, Pastor

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Greetings,

After 12 weeks of worshipping exclusively through our weekly worship videos online, we are now planning to rejoin in worship at our regular time on Sunday mornings in our sanctuary. We are all very excited about being together again in person, but we must do so in a safe and prudent way.

Enclosed in this letter is the plan that EFUMC has adopted to help us reengage in live worship in a way that is appropriate for all who God calls to join us over the next several weeks. This is a temporary plan from which we will operate until the crisis of COVID-19 has more fully passed.

We will be reevaluating the situation regularly with the hope that as soon as we can, we will lift some, or all of the restrictions that this plan is putting in place. We will be communicating any further changes as they happen, so please be mindful that this is just a temporary situation that will continue to evolve as we receive additional information.

I am so excited to join in worship with everyone this coming Sunday. While technology has been nice, there is no substitute for worship together in the house of God.

If you have any questions or concerns about this plan, please call or email me at 317-727-5145 - mike.collins@inumc.org.

I'll see you all on Sunday.

Be blessed,
Pastor Mike Collins

ELLETTSVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Plan for Reopening After Coronavirus Shutdown

We will be gathering in person for worship together on June 14, 2020.

After twelve weeks of only having worship online, we are excited to be allowed to gather back in our sanctuary for in-person worship. However, in an effort to continue to be vigilant in our responsibility to protect ourselves and others, we are resuming worship in our sanctuary with the understanding that we will be modifying how we worship for several more weeks so that the Coronavirus will not become a problem again for our community.

This document is our plan for how to resume in-person worship for the duration that Coronavirus continues to pose a threat to our communities. It is our hope that once the threat has abated, we will be empowered to transition back to a more “normal” and hospitable format for our congregational worship time.

Before June 14th:

- Engage our custodial crew to conduct a thorough cleaning of our worship space and the upstairs restroom.
- Every other pew will be roped off. One family per pew will be expected.
- All hymnals and Bibles will be removed, along with all the pencils, offering envelopes and attendance pads.
- A letter/email will be sent to everyone delineating these policies and expectations so that there will be minimal confusion on our reopening day (June 14).
- Members who are older or at risk will be encouraged to continue to worship online.
- We will continue to produce a video or live stream for those who cannot join us in the sanctuary. We will also continue to produce DVD’s for those who do not have access to the internet.

Starting on June 14th:

- We will not be having Fellowship time following worship.
- The nursery and Sunday School will be suspended until further notice.
- Only the side door, on the West side of the building will be open on Sunday mornings.
- We will have a sign on that door announcing the requirement to only enter if masked and no fever.
- We will have someone at this door to take temps with a touch-less thermometer, and to clarify any questions about procedures.
- There will be no hugging or handshaking.
- Everyone will do their best to keep 6 feet from others while in the building.
- We will not be handing out bulletins or anything else during this time.
- Everyone will be required to be masked while in the building.
- The Pastor will wear a mask for the whole service, except when he is preaching, and he will not come down from the chancel area during the service.
- We will have a table set up right inside the entrance with another sign instructing everyone to take a mask, if without one, and to use the hand sanitizer before entering.
- We will have our offering baskets at the exits for everyone to place their weekly offering since we will not be passing the plate in our traditional manor. We will continue to promote online giving during this time as a good alternative.
- We will not be singing any congregational hymns, nor will we have any live special music. All music will be played from a recording, except our organist who will be up front by herself and will not be singing.
- Only the upstairs restroom will be available.
- We will not be sharing in Communion until the Coronavirus threat has fully passed.
- The custodial crew will do a deep clean of the sanctuary and restroom, every week. Their time and effort will remain the same but will be focused in a limited area of the building.

Depending on when and how the ongoing advice from governing officials comes, we will reevaluate this plan and move to lesser restrictions as soon as it is warranted. We do not yet have a date established on which we will move away from this plan. When we have a date for moving to the next phase, we will publish it along with the corresponding expectations at that time.