

St. Simons United Methodist Church
Love Unconditionally - Serve Enthusiastically - Advance Consistently

Updated

Plan for Reopening
June 4, 2020

These are the first steps for reopening. Please understand that this plan is fluid. The steps will likely change as guidelines from the State, CDC, and/or South Georgia Conference are relaxed or tightened. We appreciate your flexibility and support as we continue to work through these uncertain times.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

As much as we all want to be back together, please stay at home if you are sick. If you are vulnerable to the virus, please make the best decision for yourself regarding in-person worship.

Worship

1. **In-person worship will begin on Sunday, June 21, at 9:00am and 11:00am, in the Sanctuary.** The doors of the Sanctuary will open, and seating will begin 15 minutes prior to each service. Social distancing will be required. Livestream of the 11:00 worship service will continue.
2. **Greeters** will be stationed outside the doors of the entrances and will greet from a distance and provide assistance as needed.
3. **Masks** will be available if needed. The wearing of masks will not be required to enter the Sanctuary but is encouraged. You are welcome to wear your own masks if you choose.
4. **Social Distancing** will be practiced. Seating will be in every other pew. Ushers will assist everyone to ensure proper spacing. Families will be able to sit together.
5. There will be no printed **Worship Guides**. Everything will be removed from the pew racks. All parts of the worship service will be projected on the walls for the congregation.
6. **Entering and exiting the Sanctuary** will be directed by the ushers and done in such a way that acceptable social distancing guidelines are followed.
7. The Sanctuary, restrooms, and entrances/exits will be **sanitized** and disinfected after each service.
8. **Weddings/Funerals/Memorial Services** may be scheduled for the Sanctuary or Chapel after June 21 following the same recommendations and guidelines for worship services.

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Music

1. **The 9:00 service will not have any in-person singing.** This is due to the increased potential that singing creates for the spread of the virus. Those who are vulnerable or more susceptible to getting the virus are encouraged to attend this service.
2. **The 11:00 service will include limited in-person singing** to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
3. **Groups directly related to participating in worship services** will be allowed to meet for rehearsals following the current guidelines for groups and social distancing. This includes the chancel choir and any other worship related ensembles.

Sunday School/Small Groups/Social Events

1. **Small groups** including Sunday School Classes, prayer groups, Bible studies, administrative/program meetings, and other outside groups **will not meet in the facilities until Sunday, July 5 or after.** Those who want to meet before July 5 are encouraged to use home groups, Zoom meetings, conference calls, and other methods to remain connected.
2. **All adult, youth, and children's Sunday School Classes** will have the option to begin meeting on **Sunday, July 5, at 10:00am.**

Children and Youth

1. **Children and Youth Sunday School Classes** will meet beginning **Sunday, July 5, at 10:00am.**
2. **A nursery** will be provided **only during Sunday School** beginning July 5.
3. **There will be no nursery or children's church during the worship services.** Families are asked to worship together. Children's bulletins and crayons will be provided.
4. **The children will remain in the pews** for the Children's Sermon.

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Church Office Hours/Facilities

1. **The church office will be open** 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday through Thursday, beginning June 22.
2. **The office entrance doors** from the back-parking lot and the Chapel Prayer Room doors will be open 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday through Thursday, beginning June 22.

Preschool

1. Following the current guidelines of the governor's executive order, the CDC, and the state preschool governing organizations, **the preschool reopened on Monday, June 1**. This provides an essential ministry and service to parents in our community who desire to return to their places of work.