



## Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church

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July 15, 2020

Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

After nearly four months, we will begin gathering again for worship in our sanctuary this Sunday, July 19th at 9 am. I will be back to preach and lead worship.

The Task Force on Reopening has been busy developing a plan for procedures, policies and protocols for providing a safe and secure opening of the church for worship. A document outlining the Task Force's plan is below.

We sincerely hope the work of the Task Force will inspire your confidence, yet we certainly encourage everyone to decide when and under what conditions you will return and we will respect the decisions made. No one should feel compelled to return to in person worship before being completely ready.

As you have been faithfully doing, we ask you to continue to pray daily for the church and regularly send in your tithes and offerings.

May God bless every person and family in our congregation and prosper our efforts to a loving and faith-filled Christian community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

## COVID 19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Fourth Avenue United Methodist is committed to providing a safe and healthy place for worship for all our members and guests. To ensure this, our task force has developed the following Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 within the walls of our church, and that requires full cooperation. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our congregation.**

Our Plan follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines, Federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19 and Executive Order 20-48, and addresses:

- hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- engineering and administrative controls for social distancing;
- housekeeping, including cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination.

### **A. Screening for Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19**

We encourage everyone to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Signs and symptoms include but may not be limited to or include all of the following:

- Cough
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- As well as people who have underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness

The following procedure will be implemented to assess the health status of a person prior to entering the congregation. A temperature check will be administered to identify a body temp of no more than 100 degrees. If a person has a temperature over 100 degrees, he or she will not be permitted to enter the church. Once a temp check has been taken a mask is required to be worn at all times. Remember if you are not feeling well, for the safety of others, please do not attend.

### **B. Hand washing**

Hand washing is recommended before you arrive at the church and sanitizer (that uses greater than 60% alcohol) will be provided in numerous areas throughout. As a guideline wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently. COVID-19 Signage (“Signs”) have been installed in common areas based on the risk of 6 foot social distancing not being able to be maintained.

### **C. Respiratory etiquette: cover your cough or sneeze**

Everyone must cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in the trash and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

### **D. Social distancing and Mask Usage**

- **Social distancing;** this is being implemented whenever possible to maintain 6 feet from each other and avoidance of contact. Mask usage is required upon entering the facility and to be worn over your face and covering over the top of one's nose. We are asking that everyone utilize the East (Ramp) Parking lot entrance to allow consistent access into the building and better monitoring of temperature checks and sanitizer usage.
- **Seating for Service;** the Ushers will play a vital role in allowing for social distancing to be maintained. Seating in the sanctuary will be marked off in designated areas to allow families ample space for distancing. The balcony will initially be closed as people are seated and then utilized if more space is needed. We encourage you to arrive early to have people seated in an organized manner.
- **Common Areas;** Common areas will be restricted and should have no foot traffic in the nursery, kitchen, office, fellowship hall, all downstairs spaces, etc. The restrooms will be available but you are asked to only have 1 person occupancy.

### **E. Housekeeping**

Regular housekeeping practices are being maintained but there is a heightened awareness to perform more thorough cleaning of common surfaces. The cleaning and disinfecting of common surfaces and common areas will utilize EPA-registered disinfectant. Practices including frequent cleaning and disinfecting instructions are located in high-touch areas, such as phones, keyboards, touch screens, controls, door handles, elevator panels, railings, copy machines, etc. In the event that someone is diagnosed with COVID-19, the church will be closed for a third-party contractor to conduct a "deep clean" of the building.

### **Summary of General Guidelines on the Day of Service**

- **Upon arrival enter the church through the East Ramp door.**
- **Maintain social distance of 6 feet if people are entering in front or back of you.**
- **Each person will have their temperature checked and will be required to wear a mask.**
- **Ushers will seat all person(s) in the areas of the sanctuary maintaining social distances – we ask that you follow their direction and not seat yourself.**
- **During the service we ask everyone to remain seated (the restrooms will be available).**
- **At the conclusion of the service Ushers will direct an orderly exit back through the East Ramp door; in reverse order that everyone arrived.**
- **The Offering will be collected as you exit the building by an attending Usher.**

While we have tried to prepare for as many safeguards as possible, please don't hesitate to reach out if you see something that needs to be added. We encourage you to contact Pastor Greg or the Church Office with any questions or concerns.

7/19/2020

Task Force on Reopening