



“RE-ENTRY” is the new catch phrase being used as the church begins to consider the challenges of coming back together as a faith community. In Iowa, each United Methodist local church has been tasked to put together a “Re-Entry Team” to consider, plan, and implement the re-opening of our churches.

As you have observed in watching the events of the world since the epidemic began, each country, state, county, city and town is different in its make-up and how the virus is affecting people. Our governor has recognized this as well as our bishop and are providing guidelines accordingly. Here at Red Oak First we have put together a “Re-Entry Team.” The team is made up of our Safety Team, Trustees, and members who are health care professionals. This team will be guiding our church’s return to full operation.

Because this is all new territory and no one of us has dealt with or led an organization through a situation like this, we will learn-as-we go. As we consider government regulations, public health guidelines, suggestions from the annual conference/bishop’s office, and the expertise of our own health professionals, we will be opening the church back up in phases rather than all at once.

Sunday Morning Worship will resume on June 7th with a single service at 10:30am in the Main Sanctuary. Guidelines for worshipping amidst the Covid-19 epidemic are included in this newsletter, on our web site (www.redoakfumc.org), our Face Book page (Red Oak FUMC), and an all-church email (with postal letters going to those without email).

For now, there will be no other activities at the church other than routine operation of the church office, necessary cleaning by our custodial staff, and leadership meetings as needed. There will be no Bible studies, Sunday School (Adult or Children), or Youth Group. The church will not be available for parties or private gatherings, including funeral lunches, larger than 10 people. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

The “Re-Entry” Team will be monitoring all aspects of this situation as the days and weeks progress. The only thing we can be certain of is that regulations, guidelines, medical discoveries, and episcopal suggestions will change!

Thank you for your prayers & your patience,
Pastor Ron & The “Re-Entry” Team