

Wall Street United Methodist Church

Building Reopening Plan

Three Phases

Phase 1: June 14 (subject to change)

Reopening sanctuary to in-person worship under new guidelines (details below)

Phase 2: Date to be determined

Addition of small group meetings in the church under new guidelines (in development)

Phase 3: Date to be determined

Addition of in-person meetings of other ministries (e.g., Scouts) under new guidelines (in development)

Guidelines for In-Person Worship in the WSUMC Sanctuary

What will happen on Sunday mornings?

Personal Preparation

- Congregants are advised to wear masks and to bring their own Bibles to worship services.
- Congregants are advised *not* to wear gloves, in order to avoid cross-contamination.
- Children are encouraged to attend worship services with their families, as childcare will not be provided at this time.
- Parishioners are encouraged to stay home if they or someone in their household feel ill or have underlying medical concerns that increase vulnerability. Worship services will be available in some form online, so that those who need or want to stay home can still join their church family in worship.

Before the Worship Service

- Congregants are urged to observe good public health practices in the church parking lot (e.g., maintaining 6-ft social distance, wearing masks).
- Entrance to the church building will be available at the double doors under the overhang in the parking lot and at one set of doors off the front porch.
- Doors will be propped open whenever possible to minimize the number of people touching handles.
- Church leaders, wearing masks, will provide hospitality at entrances, reminding parishioners of necessity of public health practices (e.g., maintaining 6-ft social distance, wearing masks) and monitoring capacity.
- Tables will be stationed at entrances with hand sanitizer and individually packaged masks for those who need them.
- Access to the building will be limited to the sanctuary and surrounding areas, including rest rooms. Church offices, kitchen, and Sunday School rooms will be closed.
- Congregants will proceed directly to the sanctuary, rather than gathering in common areas. No coffee or refreshments will be provided. Water fountains will be turned off.

During the Worship Service

- Congregants will be seated in every other pew. Individuals and family groups will maintain a 6-ft minimum social distance. Four tables will be available in the Family Worship Area. These measures would allow us to accommodate approximately 60 people during the worship service.
- Parishioners are reminded that we are to avoid greetings that involve physical contact.
- No bulletins will be distributed. All announcements and worship information will be on the screens.
- Pew Bibles and hymnals will be removed. Congregants are encouraged to bring their own Bibles from home.
- Pulpit and lectern will be arranged so that the pastor and liturgist can sit separately and maintain a 6-ft social distance from each other and other congregants. Worship leaders will wear masks when not speaking.
- The music director and organist will also maintain 6-ft social distancing. There will be no choral or congregational singing.

- Offerings will be received at stations located throughout the sanctuary. Offering plates will not be passed from hand to hand.
- Communion services will be provided monthly in an alternative setting and format, outside of the 10:00 AM Sunday worship service. Options being considered include “drive-in” communion, Zoom communion services, and home communion visits. Appropriate health measures will be observed. Additional details will be released as plans are finalized.
- Worship services will be abbreviated to approximately 30-40 minutes in duration.
- Worship services will continue to be available online in some form. Additional details will be released as plans are finalized.

After the Worship Service

- Congregants will be dismissed by rows, beginning from the back of the sanctuary.
- All are asked to exit the church directly, rather than gathering in common areas indoors. Socializing in the parking lot, while observing appropriate safety precautions, is encouraged instead.
- Trash cans will be available in the parking lot for the disposal of single-use masks and sanitizing wipes.

Additional Information

- The parish nurse will coordinate communication with the Clark County Health Department as needed and will oversee contact tracing procedures if a congregant tests positive for COVID-19.
- All processes and procedures during Phase 1 – including the start date – are subject to change as guidelines and information are received from church and civic leaders.
- Timeline for moving into Phase 2 of this reopening plan is dependent on the implementation of and adherence to Phase 1 plans.