

WUMC Reopening – Outdoor Services

Informational/Q&A Meeting for Church Family



Woodbury United Methodist Church



8 July 2020

Version 1.0



Outline



- Intro
- Survey – Quick Summary
- General Safety Protocols
- Pre-Registration for Worship Services
- Phased Reopening Plan
 - Phase A – Outdoor Services
 - Phase B – Indoor Services (time & interest permitting)
- WUMC Website – Additional Resources
- Q & A



COVID-19 Recovery Team (CRT)



- The Church Council formed the ad hoc CRT during its monthly May meeting
- **Objectives:**
 - Act as a catalyst for developing a re-opening plan that ensures the safety and welfare of the church family and community and is compliant with NYAC guidelines
 - Work with BOT to develop and implement detailed work plans for preparing the church for re-opening.
- **Members:**
 - Pastor John Thomason
 - Bud Behlman (BOT/Adult Ministry),
 - Mark Davis (Lay Leader and /Finance Committee)
 - Rae Ann Hockenberry (Open Doors Ministry/Membership Secretary)
 - Catherine Mason (Children and Youth Ministry),
 - Chris Shay (Worship Ministry)



Strategy



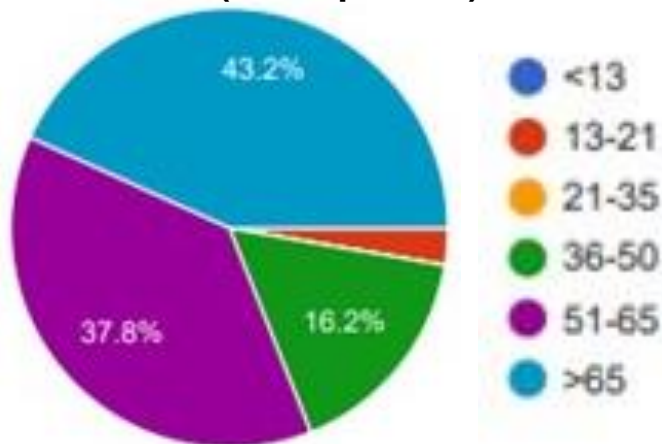
- Follow “The General Rules” created by John Wesley: Do no harm. Do Good. Stay in Love with God.
- Reconcile and comply with
 - NYAC: *COVID-19 Guidelines for Church Reopening*
 - Church Mutual Ins: *Recommendations for Safe Return to Worship*
- Be disciplined and systematic in assessing and minimizing the risks posed by the coronavirus in reopening the church
- Be creative in determining and meeting the needs of our church family
- Engage the entire church family in developing and implementing the reopening plan
- Develop and implement a communication strategy to prepare and train our church family for a successful reopening of our church

WUMC Survey Results

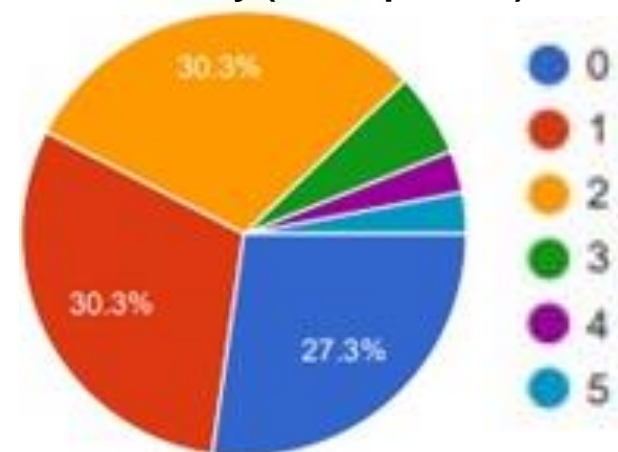
General

- Three parts: Reopening, Online Services, and Demographics
- Released June 10th ; soft deadline of June 20th
- 38 responses by June 18th; basis of preliminary results shown herein
- 81% > 50 years old
- About 42 likely attendees during Phase 1 reopening if held indoors
- See next slide for preferences related to timing of reopening and indoor vs outdoor services

Age Range of Responders
(37 responses)



Number of Likely Attendees in Family
(33 responses)



Survey results have been extremely helpful in final planning

WUMC Survey Results

Reopening Preferences

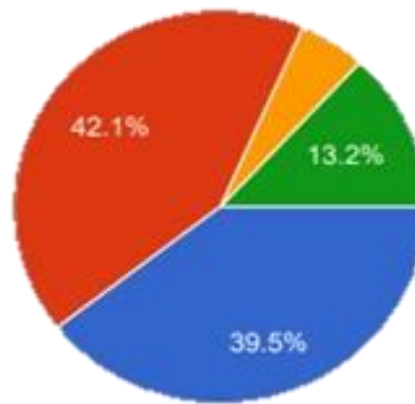
- 34% unlikely to attend indoor service in July-Aug
- 40% more likely to attend indoor service if wait until Sep-Oct
- 55% would be more likely to attend outdoor service in July-Aug
- 45% indicated that sufficient risk reductions protocols were planned
- 16% would like to see more protocols
- 11% would like to see fewer restrictions on worship service
- 78% would be willing to pre-register for weekly service

July-Aug Indoor Service



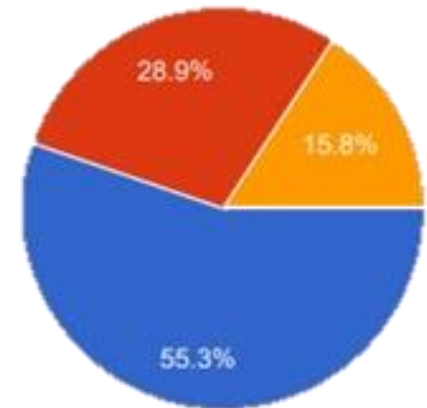
Very Likely Not Likely
Somewhat Likely Unsure

Sep-Oct Indoor Service



Very Likely Not Likely
Somewhat Likely Unsure

July-Aug Outdoor Service



Yes Unsure
No

Survey results drove change in WUMC reopening plan to provide outdoor services in Phase A during July-Aug

Potential Modifications to Enhance Restricted Worship Service

Multi-Sensory Modes of Worship

- Enhanced Scripture readings with sound effects
- Non-Traditional Song/Choir
 - Virtual Choir
 - Instrumental pieces accompanied by sign language, body motions, and/or congregational reading of lyrics
- Worship Song PowerPoint with Inspirational Images & Lyrics
- Hymn Stories: Delve into history of faith songs bringing inspiration, reflection & a fresh perspective.
- Guided Prayer
- Chants & Taizé prayer
- Guided Meditations & reflections accompanied by video
- Christian poetry reading
- Purposeful silence
 - Ecclesiastes 3:7– “There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak”*
- Use of visual design elements: artful displays with props, art, flowers, etc.

Let's view this as an opportunity to explore worship through a wider variety of our God given senses & modalities.



General Protocols to Ensure Safety of Church Family



- **Compliance with NYAC and Church Mutual Insurance guidelines**
- Protocols for limiting occupancy within indoor and outdoor venues
- Check-in points with trained Greeters to apply admission criteria, record attendance, encourage social distancing, remind attendees of mask/social distancing requirements and other restrictions
- Trained Usher to facilitate foot traffic flow patterns (indoors)
- Greater than 6-ft social distancing; Greater than 15 feet between worship team members and congregation
- Method(s) for identifying outbreak, contact tracing, and HIPAA compliant notifications

Phase A Risk Mitigation Plan

Outdoor Services

Risk Description	Primary Risk Mitigation(s) Planned
Contact transfer of virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bring your own seating by attendees – Sanitizing of limited seating made available for those who forget and can't bring seating; Sanitizing of hard touch points within roped boundary – Roping off of gazebo – Stacks of 'clean' handouts available for pickup by attendees at check-in points – Central locked box to drop off donations and basket for visitor cards – Separate microphones for each worship team member – Restrictions on service
Airborne transfer of virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Masks to be worn at all times by congregation to eliminate larger droplets – Masks and 10-ft social distance between families in congregational seating areas and outdoor natural 'ventilation' to dilute aerosol particles that penetrate masks – 15-20 ft social distancing between worship team members and congregation and each other so can remove masks when speaking/singing – Front to back seating; marked waiting line points at check-in points – Restrictions on worship service; ubiquitous signage
Lack of awareness of risk mitigation guidelines & requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training of church family with online information sessions; posting on guidelines/restrictions, training material, FAQs, etc. on website – Ubiquitous signage; Training of 'ushers/greeters'
Outbreak despite best efforts to minimize risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Roped boundaries to provide two discrete check-in points to facilitate tracking of attendance and contact tracing if outbreak occur – Registration process to facilitate tracking of attendance and contact information
Physical injury during ingress/egress to/from worship service area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trained 'usher' at cross walk on Main Street – 'Reserved' parking next check-in points for those with limited mobility – Church wheelchair on hand if needed by those of limited mobility – Roped boundary to exclude non-obvious tripping hazards from worship area – Church First Aid kits available at both check-in points



Pre-Registration for Worship Services



<https://woodburyumc.net/home-page>

HOME PAGE ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE WORSHIP SERVICE SIGNUP MORE



Woodbury United Methodist Church
4 Church Steet Woodbury, Connecticut

Worship Service Sign-up

Outdoor Worship Service 9:30 AM
North Town Green at Church and Main St
Registraion is requested. Click here

Daily Devotions

Life of the Church

Online Resources

Woodbury United Methodist Church
Messenger

COVID-19
Recovery/Re-opening

Survey
Re-opening/Recovery

<https://reopen.church/r/CqMXUVqE>

Woodbury UMC
Register for services below.

Sunday, July 12
WUMC Outdoor Church Service at 9:30 am
39 Spots Remaining

Sunday, July 19
WUMC Outdoor Service at 9:30 am
50 Spots Remaining



Register for WUMC Outdoor Church Service

What is your name / family name?

How many people will be attending?

Where can we send a confirmation email?

Submit

Cancel



Proposed Phases & Target Dates



- Current – Remote/Virtual Church Life
- Phase A – Initial Reopening with Outdoor Worship Services July 12th
- Phase B – Reopening Indoor Services, Pastoral Care, and Other Church Ministries Aug 7th
- Phase C – Further Safe Restoration of Key Restricted Church Life Elements TBD
- Phase D – Final Transition to New Normal TBD

Phase A – Initial Reopening of Worship Services

- Administrative Office Hours remain on appointment only basis for business that cannot be conducted remotely
- Worship services reopened outdoors according to NYAC Guideline Stage 3 restrictions
- Other Church Ministry and Church Committee meetings and work conducted remotely
- No Sunday School or in-person Bible Studies
- Pastoral Care conducted remotely
- No Weddings or Funerals



Outdoor Worship Services

Summary of What to Expect




- Services to be held on Woodbury's North Green at 9:30am, from July 12th until early Sept.
- 'Reserved' handicap parking near two check-in points on North Green.
- Socially spaced worship team
- Attendees asked to bring their own seating, masks, and bulletin. Limited sanitized chairs will be available for those with limited mobility
- Boundaries will be roped off the day of service to provide two check-in points, allowing greeters to apply admission criteria and record attendance
- Rope boundaries will be removed at the end of service to allow unrestricted exit
- No Fellowship Hour (in-person or virtual)
- Church's lower entrance/restrooms will be open
- Recorded service will be available later on Sunday
- Service restrictions in compliance with NYAC guidelines (see next page)



Outdoor Services – Restrictions

- Anyone that is sick (or has been in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days) should stay at home and enjoy recorded service broadcasts
- While not required, we encourage vulnerable church family members to stay safe at home
- Masks must be worn at all times, except Pastor, liturgist, and soloist when speaking/singing
- At least 10 feet social distance between families (sit at locations designated with flags); children must remain with parent(s) at all times
- No Sunday School or child care
- No congregational singing at this time
- No greeting line or Fellowship Hour




**THE WOODBURY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**With Care, Concern
& Love Recommends That**
Persons in Vulnerable Categories
Due to Age* &/or
Significant Health Conditions
**Including the elderly or under 2 yrs.*

STAY SAFE @ HOME

*Because We
Love You!*





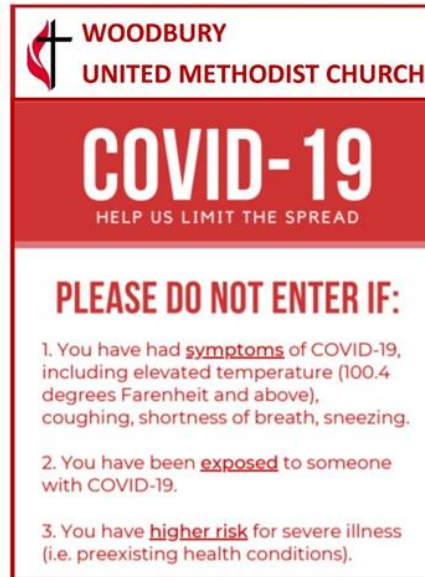
Check-In Process



- Two Greeters at each check-in area; cones will mark waiting line (6-ft distancing)
- **Greeter #1** Welcomes each family & records attendance/contact info
 - **Attendance:** Record actual number of attendees. If family is not already on the master sheet, add to last page, recording family name and primary contact info. Asks visitors if they would fill out visitor card.
 - **Handouts (for self-pickup):** Bulletins, spare masks, visitor card, cup of sanitized pens, communion kit (on first Sunday of month)
- **Greeter #2** Applies admission criteria and reminds of guidelines & drop-offs
 - **Admission Criterial:** Non-contact temp and symptoms of illness or COVID-19 (fever/chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chronic chest pains, coughing/sneezing (not explained by seasonal allergies), fatigue, body aches, headaches, sore throat, recent loss of smell/taste, gastro/intestinal distress}.
 - **Reminders:** Masks required, take seats at empty marked location closest to front boundary near gazebo, children must remain with parent(s) at all times, and no congregational signing. Use hand sanitizer upon leaving check-in.
 - **Drop-offs:** If applicable, drop off visitor card/ used pen and donation

Likely Signage – Work in Progress

Likely to be combined into one poster with only one COVID label at top and one UMC logo at bottom

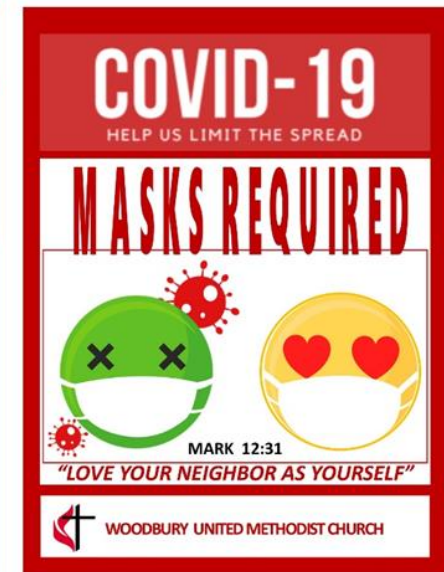


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COVID-19
HELP US LIMIT THE SPREAD


PLEASE DO NOT ENTER IF:

1. You have had symptoms of COVID-19, including elevated temperature (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and above), coughing, shortness of breath, sneezing.
2. You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
3. You have higher risk for severe illness (i.e. preexisting health conditions).



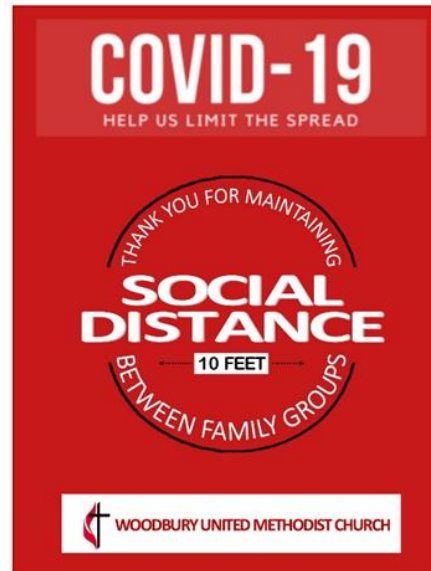
COVID-19
HELP US LIMIT THE SPREAD

MASKS REQUIRED



MARK 12:31
"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF"

WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



COVID-19
HELP US LIMIT THE SPREAD

THANK YOU FOR MAINTAINING
SOCIAL DISTANCE
10 FEET
BETWEEN FAMILY GROUPS

WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**CHILDREN
(UNDER 18)
MUST
REMAIN
WITH
PARENT**

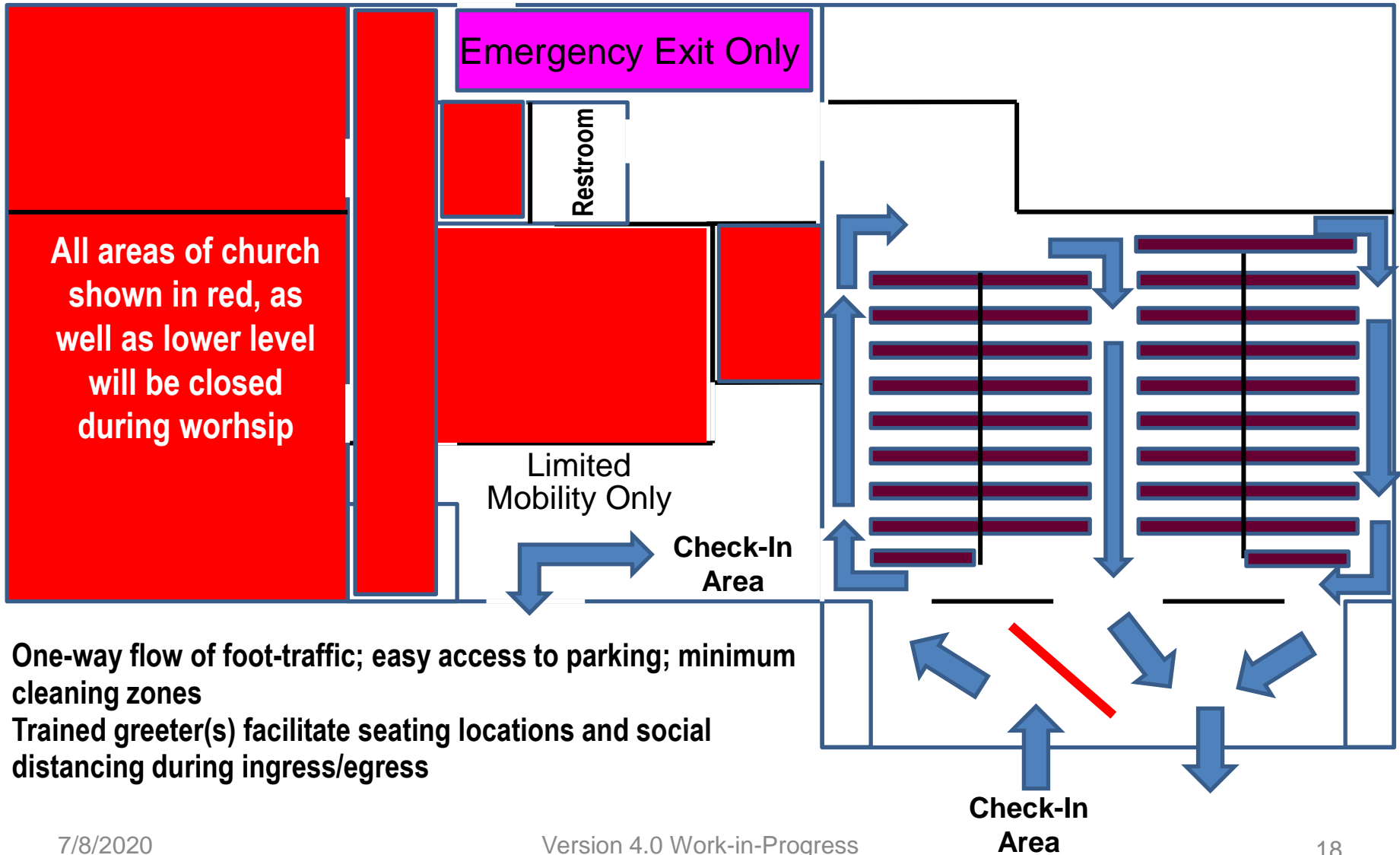
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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Phase B – Partial Reopening of Pastoral Care and Other Church Ministries

- Administrative Office Hours remain on appointment only basis for business that cannot be conducted remotely
- Worship services reopened for indoor services according to NYAC Guideline Stage 3 restrictions
- Small group meetings of 5 or less participants allowed with proper social distancing and risk reduction protocols
- Sunday School and other Children & Youth activities remain suspended
- Face-to-face Pastoral Care visits allowed at Pastor's discretion, while practicing prescribed social distancing and risk reduction protocols
- Weddings or Funerals allowed following same restrictions imposed on Phase 1 worship services as well as other no-touch alternatives to receiving lines, etc.

Selected Ingress/Egress Flow Pattern

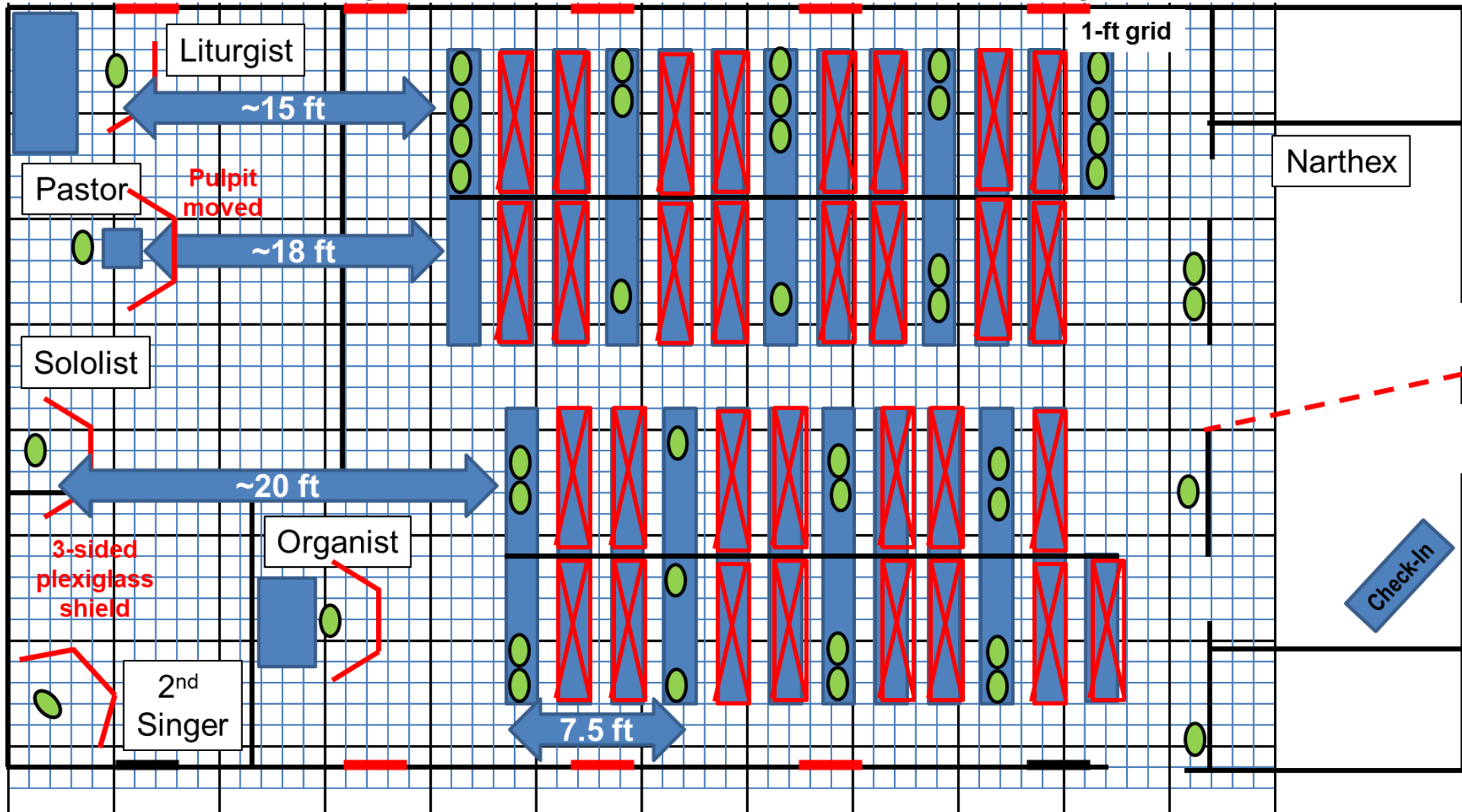
One-Way Flow Ingress/Egress to Ensure Social Distancing





Selected Sanctuary Floor Plan

- 50+ person capacity with every 3rd pew and 6-8 people in balcony;
- >6 ft distancing between families; >15 ft from speakers/singers)





WUMC Website – Additional Resources



Outdoor Worship Service 9:30 AM
North Town Green at Church and Main St
Registration is requested. [Click here](#)

Worship Service
Sign-up

Daily Devotions

Online Resources

Woodbury United Methodist Church
Messenger

COVID-19
Recovery/Re-opening

VIDEO MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN



COVID-19 RECOVERY AND CHURCH REOPENING



DOWNLOADS

WUMC Reopening -- Training
for Greeters & Ushers --
Outdoor Services v1.1 (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

Outdoor Services -- What to
Expect (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

WUMC COVID-19 Recovery
Team -- Reopening Strategy &
Planning V4 (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

WUMC-CT Reopening Plan
and Request for NYAC
Approval V2.0 (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

WUMC-CT Compliance Matrix
for NYAC Guidelines (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

WUMC-CT Compliance Matrix
for Church Mutual Insurance
Recommendations (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

WUMC_OPEN_SURVEY R7
(final) (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

NYAC COVID-19 Guidelines for
church reopening (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

Church Mutual Insurance
Recommendations for Safe
Reopening (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

We've Been Through a lot -- Time to Reopen -- We hope to see you soon!

Our reopening plan has been approved. Weather permitting, we will hold our first in-person worship service on July 12th. Outdoor services will be held each Sunday at 9:30am on the North Green through September 6th. In late July, we should be ready to hold services indoors when inclement weather precludes outdoor services. Please pre-register ([click here](#)) for each Sunday's service to make our greeters' job easier. Only one person from each family needs to register, indicating the number of family members that will attend.

While we feel we have implemented robust protocols to protect you, we encourage our most vulnerable church family members to worship at home. We would love to see you. But we want you to stay safe. Because we love you! Worship services will be broadcast online and by audio-only teleconference on Sunday afternoons.

Please scroll down to find additional info, including: a welcome back video from Pastor John; a letter from our Lay Leader; 'Outdoor Worship Services -- What to Expect'; training material for greeters, ushers, and setup/cleanup team members; WUMC's approved reopening plan; and NYAC reopening guidelines/restrictions.

<https://woodburyumc.net/covid-recovery%2Freopening>





Q & A



WUMC Survey Results

Other Preferences



- Selections for acceptable modifications to worship service (check all that apply)
 - 65% pre-recorded virtual choir
 - 53% moments of silence for meditation/reflection
 - 18% hymn read-along
 - 21% socially distanced greeting line
- Selected preferences for accommodating more than 50 people (check all that apply)
 - 51% online service only
 - 32% overflow room
 - 35% two services on Sunday
 - 22% two services (Sat evening and Sunday)
- 70% are likely to watch online service if unable to attend
- 63% unlikely to participate in remote Fellowship versus 16% very likely
- Willingness to volunteer (check all that apply)
 - 63% one-time deep cleaning and modification of church
 - 41% cleaning before/after services
 - 59% usher/greeter to facilitate social distancing
- Preferences for additional information (check all that apply)
 - 70% submit questions online or by e-mail
 - 35% online meeting or teleconference
 - 20% one-on-one phone call with Lay Leader