

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Guidelines

First United Methodist Church Howell (FUMCH) September 30, 2020

HOPE for Meeting Together Again

In-person worship services are currently meeting following the guidelines of the CDC, MIOSHA, Livingston County Health Department and the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. In-person group meetings will begin soon following the same guidelines. These are ever evolving and changing and updates will be provided. Individuals should make their own decision of when to join worship or attend a meeting in person. There will be no guilt or judgment as to when comfort level permits this. Older adults and persons with certain severe medical conditions are at higher risk for developing serious complications from Covid-19 and should continue to stay home. Video recordings of services will remain available online and by phone, and all leader meetings will be offered in a hybrid format whenever possible. Zoom or telephone attendance will be provided until all are comfortable attending meetings, worship or other gatherings in person.

The following are guidelines that currently are being instituted for anyone returning to church:

- ❖ Wearing masks/face covering properly (covering nose & mouth) are required for any person entering the church building. Mask are provided at the entrances for those who do not have one. Hand sanitizer is also be available at each entrance. **Children under 2 years are not required to wear masks.*
- ❖ Three Sunday services are being held currently: 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel, 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There are designated entrances and restrooms for each service. Though Nursery Services are not available at this time, Faith Factory is virtual and accessible on the church Facebook page or website anytime.
- ❖ Social distancing (6' safety rule) will be in place for all meetings and worship services. We ask that everyone abide by the suggested 6 feet apart rule with those not of the same household. *Sorry* to say this includes no overdue hugs, welcoming handshakes or elbow bumps. *With masks on, we are learning to smile with our eyes....*
- ❖ Please abide by the social distancing recommendations before and after services and meetings, both inside the church building and out. We request that any and all fellowship socializing be done outdoors in the "Open Air" atmosphere, before and/or after the church services and meetings.
- ❖ The Café and Children's play area are being used as overflow and meeting space at this time, so are not available for any other use. We HOPE to share and enjoy this space for its intended use soon!
- ❖ Please do NOT venture in to the areas marked as "RESTRICTED". Please use the room(s) assigned to your group and do not move the furniture, as it has been set in place for proper social distancing. Group leaders

should use provided sanitizer to clean all washable surfaces at the close of their meeting. Worship spaces will be cleaned by the church custodian.

- ❖ To ensure appropriate seating units are available for worship, seating during each service will be on a first come, first served basis (single person, couples & family units). Please remain at 6' distance and be patient while others in front of you are seated.
- ❖ If you are not feeling well, have a compromised health issue, or you do not feel you can abide by the above listed health and safety protocols, please refrain from attending services/meetings at this time, and continue to worship with us online at our FUMC website (www.howellfumc.com), Facebook page or via telephone (1-855-546-0735) and Zoom into any meetings you regularly attend.
- ❖ Group leaders are responsible for maintaining an accurate attendance list, including telephone numbers, for **every** member of **every** group who enters the building. This is imperative should contact tracing be necessary. At the conclusion of all meetings, attendance lists shall be turned in to the COVID-19 Communications Coordinator. Lists that need to be kept confidential may be placed in a sealed envelope and will only be opened if needed for contact tracing.
- ❖ Groups wishing to donate funds to offset costs of utilities and maintenance may contribute online or by mailing or dropping off donations at the office.

WORSHIP DETAILS:

- Those attending the 8:00 Service should use Door #3 (circle drive) and Restrooms in HALL C (parlor)
- Those attending the 9:00 Service should use Door #7 (canopy) and Restrooms near the kitchen
- Those attending the 10:30 Service should use Doors #1 (office) and #2 (north narthex) and Restrooms in HALL C (parlor)
- Please refrain from bringing coffee or other beverages, as masks are required to be worn at all times (except during communion) and please refrain from singing inside the building.
- Greeters will be logging worship attendance and records will be maintained by the church office.
- Please leave restroom and entrance doors propped open so they remain hands-free.
- Arrival time for each service will be no sooner than 30 minutes prior to the designated start time, and the doors will be locked 15 minutes after start of each. At the conclusion of each service, ushers will dismiss attendees, the rear rows exiting first.
- For those who do not donate online using the website, offerings may be placed in designated tithe plates stationed at the rear of Lawson Fellowship Hall, and at the interior entrances of the Narthex.

These are temporary inconveniences that we have HOPE will fade away, sooner rather than later. GOD is our constant - He will never change. Let's continue to be "A Caring Community Growing in Faith, HOPE, and Love.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and one in mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2: 1-3)