

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

Reopening Plan

The Clergy and Staff of The First United Methodist Church of Pensacola are excited about coming back to church after not being able to gather during these months of the coronavirus. We recognize that our return is taking place not at the conclusion of the coronavirus, but while it is still a threat to our society. In offering this plan, we recognize that church-life is not going to return immediately to what it was before COVID-19; therefore, how we live out our mission as the church will not be identical to what it was. This plan for restarting church is not focused on religious freedom or personal rights, though we view them as tremendously important. This plan is focused on the commandments to love God and neighbor. John Wesley's first Simple Rule, "Do no harm," compels those of us who are Jesus' disciples shaped by the Wesleyan tradition to make sure that our actions do not harm others, even unintentionally. This means that we need to exhibit abundant caution and, for the foreseeable future, act to keep everyone as safe as possible and to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

Please know that we will continue to broadcast our worship services through our website and Facebook, as well as continuing to provide ways to connect online - nothing will change in that regard. We certainly understand that many of our church family will choose for the time being to continue to stay home to protect their health. We support the decisions you make and encourage all of our church family to make a decision that is best for you and that keeps you safe.

WORSHIP SERVICES

First United Methodist Church of Pensacola will resume in-person worship services effective October 11, 2020. We will be offering 2 services each Sunday. They will be as follows:

ICON at 9:00am on the Front Lawn of Wesley Abbey

This service includes a sermon by the Rev. Brandon Bures, Associate Pastor, and music led by our ICON worship team. We will be asking that those attending this outdoor service bring their own chairs and blankets. We will not be providing these items. In case of inclement weather, we will make necessary arrangements. No childcare will be provided. *Check-in is located on the Sidewalk in Front of The Wesley Abbey.*

Traditional Service at 10:30am in the Henry Roberts Activity Center

(Until Main Sanctuary hurricane repairs are completed)

Traditional Service at 10:30am includes a sermon by Dr. Wesley H. Wachob, Senior Pastor of First UMC of Pensacola, as well as music led by Dr. Rick Branch. No childcare will be provided. *Check-in is located through the Administrative Building facing Wright Street.*

DO NO HARM

If you or a family member are symptomatic, please worship from home until it has been 14 days since your symptoms subsided. (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Runny Nose, Etc.)

REGISTRATION/ATTENDANCE & CHECK-IN

In order to prepare for Sunday mornings, we are requiring all members and regular attendees to register for one of our two worship services. Email info@fumcpensacola.com with any questions.

- We will provide opportunities to register via phone (850-432-1434), 9:00am - Noon, Monday through Wednesday.
- Online registration will be open all day, Monday through Wednesday. Click [HERE](#) to register for this week's service.
- **We ask that you arrive 20 minutes early to your service to leave ample time for our check-in procedures.**
- Entrances and exits will be labeled and will be only one way traffic. No thru traffic via the church building will be available, so please plan appropriately.
- Upon arrival for your service, you will be directed to stop at one of our check-in points to confirm your attendance.
- Precautionary temperature checks will be taken at check-in.
- You will be seated by one of our staff members.

PERSONAL PROTECTION & SAFE SPACES

- **Masks will be required for all in attendance 2 years and older**, with the exception of clergy, musicians and vocalists when speaking or singing. We will make masks available on a limited basis, but due to the shortage of PPE we strongly encourage everyone to provide their own. Masks should be worn at all times while on church premises. All masks must fully cover the nose and mouth at all times.
 - Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrances, both the H.R. Activity Center and outside Wesley Abbey.
 - **Six foot social distancing will be practiced for all worship services and any other church activity.** Six feet from the front, back and both sides will be adhered to.
 - **We will not be able to have physical contact.** No hugs, elbow bumps, fist bumps nor any form of physical touching.
 - Weekly offerings will be collected in baskets/containers that will be placed at the exits and each individual will have the opportunity to share their offering as they leave the service as well as online.
 - **Congregational singing and response will not be a part of our worship at this time** (humming is encouraged). There may be exceptions for our outdoor ICON Service.
 - There will be no coffee stations, coffee shop treats, or use of water fountains at this time. No one should bring coffee or drinks with them.
 - Please do not use restrooms, except in the case of an emergency.
 - At the present time there will be no Sunday School classes meeting on the premises, no choir practices, no regular meetings, and no children's or youth activities held on the church premises. We encourage our Sunday School Classes and or ministry/committee groups to meet virtually via Zoom (or another meeting platform). Please contact Lisa Bond (lbond@fumcpensacola.com) to learn more about setting up a virtual meeting space.
 - **There will be no nursery for our worship services.**
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We realize that this plan is inconvenient, but we ask for your compliance with Christian patience and good will for our church community. We look forward to seeing you in church!