

Trinity Charge UMC Guidelines for Reopening: What Can I Expect?

These last few months have been difficult. We have gone from normal to unexpected. We have seen COVID-19 rear its ugly head. We have heard about the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people around the world. As your pastor, one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make was closing in-person worship. To not meet in person for worship seemed to be unthinkable. I miss seeing you in person each week. I miss worshiping with you, the laughter, your smiles, your children, and so much more. During this pandemic, we have been forced to do new and different things, and let's face it, we really don't like change, do we? 😊. While the hardest decision for me to make was closing the building for in-person worship, the next hardest decision for me is reopening the building. I know that there may be some who think we are overreacting; some may think that we have been deluded by some great governmental conspiracy. There may be some who think we are opening too quickly and are not taking enough precautions.

Here is why we are taking precautions: As your pastor, I took a vow at my commissioning to DO NO HARM and there are people still being infected and dying. The people that tend to be the sickest are the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. Our churches have many that fit this demographic. As a church family, we gather in ways that are not like any other place in our society. We are quick to jump to give a hug and/or a handshake to anyone, even if we don't know them. We share materials and space for long periods of time. As we sing hymns and choruses, the projection of our voices can spread germs quickly. As a church family, it is really hard to avoid these actions that might spread this virus. Since COVID-19 doesn't start or stop at the threshold of the church doors, it is out of love for each other and our call to do no harm that we are making these guidelines and asking those who are part of our sacred communities to follow these guidelines. Whether we like or dislike these guidelines or think they are necessary, it is because of our duty as Christians and our love for each other that we need to follow them. It is my desire for all of us to remain safe. It is my desire that we fulfill the first part of our mission statement that we are a safe haven.

Please carefully read the guidelines and pay attention in the coming weeks and months as we continue to discern and develop protocol and processes as circumstances change. If you have any concerns or questions, please call Pastor David at (717) 798-1442. Look to our greeters/ushers on the day of worship to assist you when you arrive.

There may be some who wish not to return to in-person worship at this time, and while we will miss you, I completely understand. I appreciate your patience and support as we navigate these times. I will continue to provide weekly worship services on Facebook live (timing TBA) and they will be uploaded on Dellville's church website. If you have Facebook and have not joined us for worship yet and would like to, please search for David Keyworth, "friend" the David Keyworth that has a picture of me not the kitty cat. I will accept, and you will be able to join us for worship.

As circumstances change and we receive new updates regarding COVID-19, we will continue to adapt and move forward. As we do so, we will update the Dellville church website, church Facebook pages, and our "One Call Tell All" program. If you do not receive updates and need assistance to do so, please contact Pastor David.

Always remember,

God Loves You and So Do

Pastor David