**Reopening Plan – Indoor Worship – Waterloo UMC**

*Our goal remains: Spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as together we flatten COVID-19 and ensure****zero infections are spread by United Methodist activity.***

**IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE WITH LEAVING YOUR HOME TO WORSHIP, IT IS OKAY TO STAY AT HOME. OPTIONS FOR ONLINE WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE.**

**IF ANYONE IN THE CONGREGATION GETS COVID-19, INFORM PASTOR TIM.**

1. Gathering Size: Current state guidance allows indoor religious gatherings of 100 people or 25% of a building’s capacity, whichever is lower. Our church capacity is 150, so 25% would be 37 individuals. We will need, however, to also assure social distance. If the church reaches capacity, services can be attended by remaining in your car and tuning in to the FM transmitter (94.3 FM) or via Facebook.

2. Entering: Please maintain 6 feet social distance in the parking lot, or if others are entering at the same time as you. A designated person will meet you at the entrance to the church. Your name will be taken (for tracing purposes, if needed). Your temperature will be taken. There will be multiple sanitizing stations for you to use before you are directed to a seat.

3. Social Distance:  Indoor services will need to assure social distance. Pews where individuals / family groups may sit will be marked and greeters will assure proper seating. Greeters will direct congregants to sit only in the designated areas. At the end of the service, the pastor will dismiss each row, one at a time from the back, to assure social distance is maintained.   Please do not congregate outside the door of the church or in the parking lot. Social Distancing Signs will be posted. 6 feet of distance between each person (and family unit) must be maintained while entering and exiting the building and while sitting/standing within the building.

4. Masks: Masks must be worn by the congregation at ALL TIMES. Exceptions are made for the pastor and readers while they are distanced in the pulpit / altar area. Plexiglass will be used to separate those without masks from the congregation.

5. Music: For safety during this time, we are currently only using recorded or piano music and will not be singing.

6. Human Contact: Per CDC guidelines, we should prevent people from touching objects and other people. Waterloo will ask that congregants bring their own mask, hand sanitizer, bulletin and music (printed or on an electronic device), and refrain from touching others before, during, or after the service (this includes no hugging, no handshakes, or physical passing of the peace). Please greet others with a wave or prayer hands. No offering plate will be passed, and we continue to gratefully accept tithes and offerings online or by mail.  Whenever possible the entrance door will be clipped open, so that no contact is required

7. Cleaning: Cleaning surfaces and all common areas.  For the time being, the restroom will only be open for urgent situations.  Signs will remind individuals using the restroom to please wipe down all surfaces after use (toilet, sink, door handles, light switch, and hook lock).  Parents are asked to accompany children to the restroom to complete the cleaning.  Sanitizing wipes will be available for this purpose.  Common “touch points” in both the church and Parish House (such as pews, doorknobs, key box, light switches, and staircase handrails) will be wiped down on a regular basis. Speakers and microphones will also be wiped down before and after use. The pew cushions, hymnals, and other items will be removed from the sanctuary to facilitate cleaning and prevent sharing items. Whenever possible, windows will be opened in the church to promote ventilation.

8. Vulnerable People: Due to the risk COVID-19 poses for some individuals (older people, people with asthma, liver disease, hypertension, health conditions, and disabilities), all services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook and all fellowship, Bible studies and meetings will take place virtually.  Anyone who is not comfortable meeting in person is encouraged to stay connected through these means. We love you and eagerly await a time when it is safe for you to return in person.

9. Protection: Anyone who has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (within the past 14 days) or is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, is asked to stay home. Hand sanitizer will be available, but you are also encouraged to bring your own.  Please use it before entering the church or Parish House, and when leaving, as needed.  (Extra masks will be available, in case someone doesn’t have one. Gloves will also be available.)

10. Communion: When communion will be offered, it will be by individual sealed communion cups that contain both a wafer and juice. Congregants are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to use prior to communion and hand sanitizer will be offered to individuals. The pastor will use gloves or sanitizer prior to distributing the communion cups (as congregants remain in their pews). Communion should be received with a flat hand, so there is no hand to hand contact. (Communion remains optional and congregants may also continue to bring their own communion elements – bread or crackers and water or juice, especially if there are dietary restrictions). Please discard wrappers on your way out of the church, to prevent others from having to pick up after you.

11. Signage:  Signs in the restroom will remind individuals of the need to wipe down surfaces after each use.  Social Distance and mask reminders will also be posted. Announcements will include a reminder that fellowship time will happen virtually and individuals should maintain 6 feet of distance while exiting the service.

12. Communication:  This plan will be distributed via e-mail and posted to our Facebook page prior to services. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed.