

## WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES?

Over the summer church leaders worked together to develop the guidelines that are guiding our reopening this fall. We are sharing them with you here so that you can know what we will be needing from each other as we come back together in person in October.

### BUTLER UMC RE-OPENING PLAN 06/09/20

#### I. PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE US:

- A. Scripture Teaching from Jesus – Love God and Love our Neighbors as Ourselves.
- B. John Wesley's Rules for Methodist Societies –
  - 1. Do No Harm
  - 2. Do all the Good You Can
  - 3. Stay in Love With and Grounded in God.
- C. Guidelines from the CDC and State of NJ.
- D. We want to do all that we can to protect all who come under our roof while at the same time fulfilling our God-given mission of 'feeding people – body & soul'.

#### II. BEGINNING STEPS:

##### A. Appropriate Self-Care and Monitoring

- 1. Worship will continue to be available online, whether live or taped and posted on Sunday.
- 2. If you are in a vulnerable age group (60+) and/or have a pre-existing condition that makes you vulnerable to the virus you are encouraged to stay home.
- 3. If you have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 you need to practice self-quarantine for at least two weeks and not attend worship or church events.
- 4. If you have any symptoms or feel ill, please stay home.
- 5. Should you become sick with COVID-19 after attending a worship service or church in person event you need to notify the Church Office immediately.

##### B. If you come into the Church Building you will need to:

- 1. Wear a mask
- 2. Sanitize and wash hands.
- 3. Practice social distancing (6 feet minimum)
- 4. Register your attendance and contact info, to enable contact tracing should it be needed.
- 5. All groups that use the building are responsible to wipe down and disinfect high touch areas. (doors, door knobs, switches, rest rooms).

##### C. Worship (all the above plus)

- 1. There will be no congregational singing and the Choir will not meet or sing immediately.
- 2. Rows of pews will be closed so people may be at least 6 feet from the rows around them.
- 3. People from the same household may sit together, others should keep at least 6 feet distance.
- 4. Passing Offering Plates, Friendship Pads, Communion with common loaf and cup will be discontinued.
- 5. The Worship Outline (prayers, creeds, etc.) will be available online and via the video screens.
- 6. Interior and Exterior doors will be propped open wherever practical to minimize touching of them.
- 7. Hymnals, Bibles, pencils, and response cards will be removed from the pews. People are encouraged and welcome to bring their own Bible to follow along with Scripture readings.
- 8. Immediately following worship – designated teams will clean door knobs and handles, pews, and rest rooms.
- 9. For the immediate future, Coffee Hour and events around tables in Fellowship Hall are discontinued.