

FAQ regarding Re-Opening the Church Building

Calvary United Methodist Church

September 1, 2020

1. *Why is it that I can go to the grocery store (and other businesses), but there many restrictions when it comes to worshipping together in the church building?*

Because the virus is primarily spread through droplets that enter the respiratory system, it is important to consider those activities that are more likely to spread the virus than others. When shopping at the grocery store or Walmart, persons move through the interior spaces rather than staying for a time in just one space. Most of us when we go shopping are not singing aloud. Although there are certainly churches that have met in-person for worship and not seen people get sick from the virus, there are enough cases that show that church worship services are likely to be “spreader events”. The task force wishes to err on the side of caution and safety for our members.

2. *Do I have to wear a mask if I am social distancing inside?*

Governor Hogan’s most recent Executive Order (June 12) requires that masks be worn on church property for all persons above 8 years of age.

3. *When will we get back to worship as we did before?*

The task force will be meeting together regularly to review these guidelines and restrictions in light of the current public health situation. We will be monitoring what public officials and medical experts advise as well as what other churches in our area are doing. We hope to be able to provide as much of those things we value about our community of faith while still attending to the needs for safety.

4. Can Sunday school classes meet in the building? How about UMW circles or other church groups?

The Task Force has guidelines for some church groups to meet in the building. There will be no children's Sunday School classes. Those who wish to meet will be asked to follow the restrictions and guidelines established by the task force. To receive a copy of the restrictions and guidelines or to schedule a meeting within the church building, contact Rev. Steve Larsen (revsteve@calvaryumc.org) or Cathy Baker (office@calvaryumc.org) or 301-662-1464.