



## CAPE ST. CLAIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

855 Chestnut Tree Drive

Annapolis, Maryland 21409

Phone: (410)757-4896 [www.capeumc.org](http://www.capeumc.org)

July 1, 2020

Saints of Cape St. Claire UMC,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessed Holy Spirit.

We are so glad to be re-entering the church building and sanctuary for in-person worship this Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> for those that feel comfortable gathering together. For those who do not yet feel comfortable returning to in-person worship – fear not! Online worship will continue to be offered for quite some time.

Below we've noted several of the many measures we've taken in preparation for our re-entry:

- Deep cleaning of the sanctuary and narthex.
- Repositioning of the Pews to provide appropriate social distance spacing.
- Removal of common items in sanctuary (e.g. pew Bibles, hymnals, and pencils, etc.)
- Removal of children's books, toys and activity bags. If your child needs an activity to keep them occupied, feel free to bring such items with you.
- Purchase of PPE (e.g. hand-sanitizer, masks, gloves, etc.)

Per state/local governing authorities, Balt.-Wash. Conference guidance, and /or CDC recommendations, below are the practices we will be adhering to for in-person worship:

- No Nursery, Sunday school, or Children's Time.
- Worshippers are only permitted to be present in sanctuary and narthex. Other areas of the church building will be off limits.
- Limit of one adult in a bathroom at a time.
- No congregational singing.
- For the sake of contact tracing, contact information of all present will be obtained. Please notify Cape UMC's administrative assistant should you become ill with COVID-19 like symptoms after attending a worship service so that we may inform the remainder of the congregation. Your confidentiality will be kept by church staff.
- Entering the building will be done exclusively from the Summit Drive side entrance.
- Exiting the building will be done exclusively from the Chestnut Tree Drive side exit.



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- Upon entry, ushers will escort worshippers to their seats.
- Upon commencement of worship service, ushers will escort worshippers out of sanctuary and building.
- Worshippers will be required to wear a mask/face covering throughout the duration of the worship service. Please provide your own.
- Upon entry, worshippers will be provided with hand-sanitizer. Hand-sanitizer is also available upon exiting.
- No passing of the offering plate. Upon entry, tithes/offerings/gifts may be placed in baskets provided in the narthex.
- No congregating in the sanctuary or narthex either before or after the worship service for social/coffee time.
- Attendance capacity will be no more than 50% of sanctuary capacity AND dependent upon the maintenance of appropriate social distancing between family units. Although we do not anticipate having to limit attendance, we will reserve the right to do so for others' safety.
- Out of love for so many among Cape UMC who will continue to be unwillingly absent for a season, we will "wait for one another" and continue to fast from celebrating the Lord's Supper for the time being. (See 1 Corinthians 11:33)

While these procedures may seem extensive and extreme, 64% of people who completed the survey indicated that they or someone in their family were considered to be in the high-risk category for contracting COVID-19. Thus, these procedures are necessary to ensure that all worshippers, especially the most vulnerable among us, are as comfortable and safe as possible while participating in in-person worship. If you do opt to gather for in-person worship beginning on July 5<sup>th</sup>, we ask that you please abide by these practices.

It is with great joy that we anticipate being able to gather for in-person worship once again. Until this Sunday – and indeed every day – the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Blessings,

The Re-Entering Well Task Force of Cape UMC