



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

## **St. John's UMC COVID-19 Task Force - Safe Homecoming Recommendations** **May 27, 2020**

In accordance with guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Louisiana State Government, Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and in conjunction with the results from the St. John's UMC Safe Homecoming survey, we the COVID-19 task force, submit the following recommendations for returning to on-campus worship and activities.

- ◆ Mid-July 2020 would be the earliest date to resume in-person worship. This is contingent upon no longer being in Phase 1, having proper operating procedures and protocols in place for safe worship practices. We would strive to align with the recommendations from the CDC, State and UMC. In this effort, we seek to follow our first rule as Wesleyan Christians to **do no harm**.

The following is proposed for in-person **worship**:

- ◆ Only one on-campus worship service will be offered until the time we are able to ensure the safety in resuming additional services. That service will be held in the Family Life Center (FLC) with strict adherence to social distancing. In this effort, we seek to ensure our neighbors' safety and health by utilizing the FLC. This space more easily allows for physical distancing.
- ◆ In-person worship will only begin after live streaming is operational in the FLC. In this effort, we seek to maintain connection with those who are unable to attend in-person worship. In this effort, we seek to follow our first rule as Wesleyan Christians to do no harm.
- ◆ Masks will be required during worship and for those gathering in groups on the church's campus. Masks will be available for distribution if you do not have a mask\*. In this effort, we seek to love our neighbors by doing all we can to ensure their safety and health.
- ◆ The kitchen will be closed to public use and restrooms will only be available for emergencies\*. In this effort, we seek to follow our first rule as Wesleyan Christians to do no harm.
- ◆ Worship Stewards will be positioned in the parking lot and near the entrance of the FLC\*. In this effort, we seek to provide the safest hospitality possible for all and do no harm.

When on-campus **programs, small groups, and fellowship activities** begin:

- ◆ All indoor activities will be held in the FLC (gym only). When it is deemed safe, we will resume activities in smaller, classroom-type settings. In this effort, we seek to provide space for physical distancing while connecting in smaller groups.
- ◆ Strict adherence to social distancing, wearing of masks, registering of attendance, and following cleaning protocols will be required.\*\* In this effort, we seek to love our neighbors by doing all we can to ensure their safety and health and do no harm.
- ◆ No activities will be scheduled in the FLC which would conflict with the operation of the Shepherd's Market. In this effort, we seek to continue to feed people spiritually and physically and do no harm.

(\*) denotes items that will be included in the St. John's UMC Safe Homecoming protocols.

(\*\*) denotes items that will be included in the St. John's UMC Small group Homecoming protocols.

*COVID-19 Task Force members: Rhonda Tucker (Lay Leader), Bonnie Byland, Pat Cobb, Donnie Lambert, Latrice Mallard, John Toney, Rev. Lane Cotton Winn, Rev. Deirdre' Halliburton*

*Approved unanimously by Church Council, May 28, 2020*