



October 2020 – Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

Certainly, COVID-19 has created an environment like we have never seen. We are cautiously optimistic about reopening the buildings and have taken many steps to create a safe experience as we reopen. The following questions/answers are designed to explain the safety plan.

How is the church deciding when to reopen?

We are using the guidelines from the North GA UMC Conference, monitoring the daily new cases of COVID-19 in our county (Fulton). We are also monitoring the daily new cases in our church geography. Once certain thresholds are reached, activities may resume. For the details on this process and the current state, which is updated twice per week, see: <https://www.afumc.org/how-were-tracking-covid-19-to-plan-for-reopening/>

Once we reopen the building, will all activities resume?

We will begin with Worship Services that will include guidelines from the Conference, and gradually roll out additional activities as feasible. We are currently determining the maximum capacity in each of our rooms for classes and meetings. In order to meet the needs of all, the plan is to A) continue online streaming, B) provide in person worship in our Sanctuary and C) offer some outdoor worship opportunities.

Are masks required?

Yes, while inside the church building, masks will be required. If you do not have a mask, we will supply one for you when you enter.

What are the initial requirements for entering the building?

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, everyone should maintain social distancing of 6 feet from non-family members. Handshaking and hugs are replaced with waving and simply greeting each other from a safe distance. There are 2 entrances that will be used – the main entrance off Cumming Street, plus elderly or handicapped guests can be dropped off at the Narthex entrance off Main Street under the portico. Anyone entering will have their temperature checked and reservation scanned so that we know who is in the building if contact tracing is required.

What steps are we taking in the facility to provide a safe environment?

By working with other leading churches and organizations, we have developed a process for Alpharetta Methodist that includes 2 levels of disinfecting, requiring masks, requiring social distancing, limiting seating in our Sanctuary and maximum circulation of air in all spaces. For disinfecting, we are using a CDC approved product called First Defense <https://fosterproducts.com/covid-19/> as a spray and wipe, plus we are fogging the Sanctuary before, in between and after services with a CDC approved product called Biotab7 https://advancedbiocide.com/what_is_biotab7.php. The Health and Hospitality Team approved a one-way traffic pattern that allows us to keep all surfaces as clean as possible. Sections of the building not in use will be roped off/closed.

Will the church offer nursery and children’s programs on Sunday mornings?

As we follow guidelines from the North Georgia Conference, we are not yet offering nursery or children’s programming. Families are encouraged to worship together. Children’s Ministry is offering a family-friendly worship service each Sunday in the Sanctuary from 4:30-5:00pm beginning on October 4th.

Are the restrooms available?

Although we encourage the use of the restroom prior to coming to church, the restrooms in the open part of the church will be available, including the main lobby restrooms and the restrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floor. There is a maximum of 3 people in any restroom at any given time.

Please send additional questions to Brad Meisburg bmeisburg@afumc.org