



# Prospect United Methodist Church

# Reopening Plan

## Phase One

As we begin reopening the church building to welcome you and your families back to worshipping together in-person, there are many questions as to what returning to church will look like. This guide is intended to help answer some of the most common questions.

**General Guidance:** Each person has a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others. If you suspect that you or a member of your family have symptoms, stay home until the period has expired and/or testing has occurred.

### Quick Overview

- Limited to no more than 25 percent of capacity indoors, or up to 100 people, whichever is lower. Up to 150 people will be permitted outside. Online worship will be available.
- The vulnerable are encouraged to remain at home.
- Worship gathering times will be adjusted temporarily for the summer to alleviate congestion (9:30am). service will be shorter - 35- 40 minutes
- There will be limitations of entry to sanctuary and rest of building. (see FAQ section)
- Nursery services and Sunday school will not be offered. During children's time children will remain with their families.
- We will take attendance in order to communicate with the members of the congregation if someone develops Covid-19.
- Cleaning in the sanctuary and bathroom will be done after every Sunday service by a hired contractor.

These plans are subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.

## **Social Distancing Safety measures.**

- Seats will be roped off.
- Bulletins will not be offered
- Communion will not be offered.
- No choir
- No congregational singing
- No baptisms
- No greeters
- No activities at altar
- No fellowship after worship services
- No receiving lines
- Visits the office or the pastor only by appointment. No idle bystanders.
- Meetings are allowed for under 5.

## **Vulnerable populations include, but is not limited to:**

- Individuals 65 years old and older
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised (such as by chemotherapy or cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy)

### **Should I wear a mask?**

Although the governor's guideline says that masks are encouraged but not mandated, we are asking everyone to wear a mask unless you have a medical condition or are under two. Information from CDC on cloth face coverings indicates wearing a mask reduces the potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We will have a limited number of masks available for those who forget to bring their mask.

**Note:** Services will be canceled and everyone will be asked to leave if someone refuses to wear mask who does not meet guidelines of those who are exempt.

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## FAQ's

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### ***Where should I park?***

Please leave upper parking area for those who need it. Use the back parking lot and walk up to one of the doors listed below. Please be mindful of social distancing while exiting cars to enter the building.

### ***Where do I enter?***

We will limit access into the sanctuary to two doors — the door on Summer street near the upper parking lot and the door on Center St coming up from the lower parking lot will be open. Both doors will be propped open, to ensure a “touchless” entry.

### ***How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?***

We will utilize the CDC recommendation of 6' per person separation guideline. Every other pew has been blocked off for use. Family units, defined as people residing in the same home, can sit together. Children must stay with their parents.

### ***What if more people show up than we can accommodate in the sanctuary?***

Once we reach capacity, no others can be admitted. They will be asked to watch the service online later in the day.

### ***Will the bathrooms be open?***

Only the handicapped bathroom will be available on Sunday. Anyone under age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult to go to bathroom. Wipes will be in bathroom so please be considerate and wipe down any handle used. Signage reminding folks to wash their hands will be posted. Use of your own bathrooms before coming to church is encouraged.

### ***How will the offering be received?***

Offering plates will not be passed between congregants. Please consider using electronic giving or mail options. The miniature wooden replica of PUMC will be available for anyone who wishes to bring their offertory to church. You may deposit it in the box in the way in or on your way out.

### ***What happens at the conclusion of the service?***

We know that you may want to stay and visit, however, you are requested to maintain social distancing while moving to your cars.

### ***Who do I contact if I have questions I need answered before returning to church?***

You are encouraged to talk to the Pastor, a lay leader (Jeanette Baker, Steve Oakes, Susan Thayer, Gary Gladu), or call the office (860-582-3443) with any questions.