



# SullivanFirst

## COVID UPDATE - CHILDREN'S MINISTRY & WORSHIP

Dearest Friends,

We have some wonderful news to share with you! We have been given the “green light” by the Bishop to start Children’s Ministry and Nursery back up! To create a smooth transition for everyone after being gone for almost 8 months (too long!) and launch everything safely, we are reopening in 3 phases that we’ve outlined below:

**sullivan first KIDS CHURCH**

### RE-LAUNCH game plan

## PHASE 1

Upstairs Kids Church space has been converted into 4 separate, self-serve rooms for families. 1 family per room (“first come, first serve”). Toys, coloring pages...etc. are available in each room, along with parent seating. Sermon will be transmitted via radio so can parents listen. Rachele Sutton (nursery staff) will be helping facilitate upstairs.

- K-4th**
  - Kids moment during Awaken Service
    - Designated, socially distant “footprints” for kids to sit
    - Kids return to families when finished
  - Activity bags available
- PreK**
  - Kids Moment
  - Self-serve upstairs rooms
- Nursery**
  - Space available in back of Friendship Hall for nursery children & parents
    - Includes rocking chairs
  - Self-serve upstairs rooms

**\*Kids Church and Nursery resumes in Phase 2\***

## PHASE 2

- PreK & K-4th**

Kids Church reopens!  
**\*limited space\***

  - Opening Worship with family downstairs
  - Then Kids Church (PreK & K-4th) students may go upstairs
  - 10 per room limit (10 Prek & 10 K-4th) **in order to socially distance**
  - Reservations and check-in required
  - Masks required by all kids and ministry volunteers
- Nursery**
  - Limited nursery availability
  - Reservations and check-in required
  - Staff and volunteers required to wear masks

**\*Stricter cleaning practices will be followed during all phases\***

## PHASE 3

- PreK & K-4th**

Resume normal Kids Church service!

  - Kids worship upstairs
  - Check-in required
- Nursery**
  - Normal nursery availability
  - Check-in required

**\*Stricter cleaning practices will be followed during all phases\***

### MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

**we can sing again!**

We are so excited to be back together again! Please reach out to us if you have any questions about Children's Ministry and Nursery.

Additionally, there have been a number of reoccurring questions from you, our church family, in regards various reopening issues. To address these concerns we've outlined them below and addressed each one:

**QUESTION:** *What about masks?*

**ANSWER:** Sullivan First have developed the following guidelines to create a way for everyone to worship.

- 9:30am Awaken Service - Masks are encouraged- especially upon arrival and departure- optional while seated. No one will be turned away.
- 11am Heritage Service - Masks are required

**QUESTION:** *When will nursery/kids church become available again?*

**ANSWER:** We have been given the "green light" in this phase to start Children's Ministry and Nursery! To launch everything safely and smoothly we have together a 3 phase "reopening".

- Phase 1 starts this Sunday, October 25
- Kids Church & Nursery reopen in Phase 2
- We will enter Phase 2 when we have enough volunteers to start and sustain the programs.
- See graphics above for full reopening details

**QUESTION:** *RSVP for church on Sunday?*

**ANSWER:** Yes we ask everyone to RSVP but if you forget, still come worship with us! Here's why we RSVP:

- Helps set-up team prepare room to follow COVID guidelines
- Contact-Tracing

**QUESTION:** *Other churches are reopening/not requiring masks/singing in worship/etc. Why can't we do what other churches are doing?*

**ANSWER:** While we have the ability to lead our church in its local context there are times in which the Bishop will give direction and instruction in which all United Methodist Churches are committed to follow.

- COVID is one of the issues that the Bishop has given direction and instruction for
- We're currently in "Phase 4: Revitalization" of the Conference plan
- If you would like to know more about the current phase we're in you or worship expectations can visit our dedicated COVID & Church page on our website at:  
<https://www.sullivanfirstumc.com/church-covid>
- To see a complete list of the phases and guidelines you can visit our district website at:  
<https://www.igrc.org/coronavirus>

We, as the church leadership, are praying for you and relying on God's wisdom to navigate our church through this unique time. We thank you for all the grace and understanding that you give to us as we look to God for His wisdom and direction. Our hope is to better communicate with you, our church family, as reopening continues. Watch out for more updates in the future!

Presented to you on behalf of the Ad Council, Pastor & Church Staff