



**May 7, 2020-Update**

## Adjusting Our Reopening Plan for Cordele First

***On April 22 CFUMC put forward a plan to begin reopening by May 31. Of course the plan hinged on conditions, and circumstances have compelled us to adjust our reopening schedule. Below are the new circumstances and the adjusted schedule.***

On April 20, Governor Kemp began a phased opening of the Georgia economy. On April 30th he extended the shelter-in-place order to June 12. **Bishop Bryan and the Cabinet adjusted the guidelines for the South Georgia Conference requesting churches continue to suspend in-person services until June 21 at the earliest.** You can read the Bishop's guideline at [www.sgauhc.org](http://www.sgauhc.org). Last month the church staff and lay leadership of CFUMC met to develop a basic plan to phase in our return to full operation. We will continue to follow this format, simply moving the dates back as requested. It is important to remember that, unlike other sectors of the economy, there are certain factors we as a church must keep in mind:

- By definition the church gathered presents a potentially higher risk for transmission of the COVID-

19 virus than other businesses or activities. Additionally, we have a higher proportion of those in the high risk group making up our congregations.

- It is vital for our *witness* that we find a good balance between confidence in opening and being good examples of proper care and concern. There is no need to rush the opening simply because we would all like to! As we develop our reopening plan we will do so in stages always being ready to change it as circumstances dictate.
- Just because we are open does not mean everyone should come. We need to encourage those in higher risk groups and the otherwise vulnerable to stay home until they are confident and we feel the crisis point has passed.

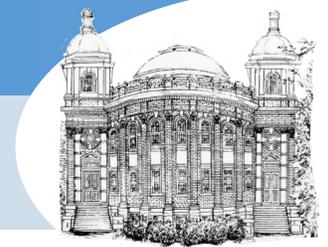
With these things in mind, below is our current plan for a phased-in reopening of the church.

## CFUMC Reopening Schedule— **Update 5-7-20**

### **June 21— Outdoor Opening at Dooly Campground**

Our first gathering as a church will have to be put back to June 21. On that date we are planning to have this as an outdoor, off-campus gathering at Dooly Campground. This will be a single, combined 11:00 service and we will continue to observe social distancing. Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets if you'd rather sit a little farther out. We'll also live-stream the service for those who cannot come.

### **June 28— Limited Operations**



On June 28 we'll meet once again in our facility for all three services. We will be set up for continued social distancing so please be patient as you may not get to sit in your usual spot! Of course our usual capacity will not be possible but we anticipate that those in the vulnerable sectors will continue to stay home. For the time being we will be suspending both Children's Church and all Sunday school classes as our rooms are not large enough for adequate distancing.

## July 5– Continued Limited Operations

We will continue with our limited operations, again with all three services but no Sunday School or Children's Church.

## July 12– Return to Full Operations

Hopefully by July 12 conditions in our community will have improved enough for us to resume normal operations with all services, Sunday school and other gatherings.

**Please remember that everything in these plans is flexible and contingent upon changing circumstances.** Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call the pastor (706-326-4865; [larry@cordelefirst.com](mailto:larry@cordelefirst.com)) or the church office. ***Keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and regular emails for updates and any changes.***

## Video Services

For May and June we will continue to produce video worship services as we have been doing since March 22.



As always, these can be accessed via our website ([cordelefirst.com](http://cordelefirst.com)) or on the Cordele First Facebook page. If you are enjoying these services, please feel free to share them on your Facebook page. So far we have been averaging over 2700 views for each of our services!

When we resume services, we will switch to a live-stream available again on the website and facebook. A recording of these services will be available on line for folks to view at a later date if they so desire.

Thank you for your on-going support in this unusual time!