

Brooklet UMC Regathering Action Plan

According to our recent questionnaire, it is time for Brooklet UMC to regather for in-person worship. We believe at this point, it is important for our most vulnerable folks in our community to continue sheltering in place for their own safety. We are planning on our first Sunday for in-person worship to be June 21, 2020. For those who have health conditions that deem themselves vulnerable or those who are just not ready attend in-person worship gatherings, online worship options will continue to be provided. We don't want anyone to feel guilty or pushed to come back before they are completely ready. Below you will find an outline of the procedures and protocols which we prayerfully hope will guide us to a safe return to worship and fellowship at Brooklet UMC. Our goal is to follow guidelines as set forth by our Bishop and Cabinet, The South Georgia Conference UMC Connectional Ministries, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of Georgia. With this guidance, we will strive to provide as safe an environment for worship and ministry as possible for everyone involved.

As we regather, we want everyone to understand that worship and gatherings will be different than what we experienced prior to COVID-19. We ask for everyone's patience as we seek what Bishop Lawson Bryan calls a "rolling restart". There will be a learning curve for all of us. The majority of our church family strongly desires to be together in worship. In order for us to do this, we will need to be cooperative and flexible. While there will be various feelings and emotions on the directions given by our Regathering Leadership Team, our primary goal is to do no harm. We ask for your support in our efforts as we seek to do what is best for everyone. We believe that as we work together in a spirit of unity and harmony, we will see God move in wonderful ways.

Phase One / Sanitization and Disinfecting Our Building...

- A. Deep clean the Sanctuary, JWC Worship Center, hallways, fellowship hall, classrooms and bathrooms throughout the building prior to and after each use with disinfectant. This will especially include sanitizing all surfaces where human contact is likely to occur. (ie. doors, light switches, pews...)
- B. We will maintain frequent cleaning of bathrooms on Sunday mornings and while people are in the building.
- C. A/C filters will be cleaned or replaced on a more frequent basis.
- D. We are stocking up on supplies: soap, hand sanitizer, masks, toilet paper, and needed cleaning supplies.

- E. We will place hand sanitizer stations throughout building to assist with personal cleanliness. You will find the stations close to the entrances that will be in use.
- F. We will have a volunteer team in place to maintain our new standards of cleaning.

Phase Two / Regathering for Sunday Morning In-Person Worship...

- A. Encourage all participants to take precautions before coming to the church campus and after arrival.
 - 1. Remind people to remain at home if they have even the slightest signs of either a fever or a cough.
 - 2. Remind people to remain at home if they have been in the presence of someone with signs of a fever or a cough.
 - 3. Remind people to social distance (6 ft.) as much as possible even within the hallways.
 - 4. People will be required to use masks when on the church campus. We ask that you please bring your own masks. We will provide masks for those who may not have their own. Masks will not be required on small children and those with special needs.
 - 5. Remind people to refrain from handshakes and hugs.
- B. Encourage social distancing (6ft. apart) to start in the parking lot upon arrival.
- C. Minimize contact on surfaces by...
 - 1. We will only use front doors of both the Traditional and JWC Sanctuaries and the doors under the covered area in front of the church and behind the JWC for handicapped entry. These doors will remain open so that minimal contact will take place on door handles.
 - 2. Interior sanctuary doors will also remain open to minimize contact.
 - 3. Receptacles will be provided at the entry/exit points for those who wish to place offerings there as an act of worship prior to or following the service. We also have online options for giving as well.
 - 4. We will use every other pew in the Sanctuary for social distancing purposes. In the JWC chairs will be spaced out to allow for social distancing.

5. Our Order of Worship will be offered online through our weekly newsletter. We are encouraging attendees to print this at home or have it available on their personal smart phones or tablets.
6. We will be avoiding the use of shared microphones by those leading in worship.
7. We will have less singing and requests that folks sing softly as to minimize any risks. We realize that there are various beliefs on the risks of singing but due to overwhelming desire of our church family, we have decided to include it.
8. All hymnals, Bibles, envelopes, pens and pencils will be removed from worship areas.
9. Hymns, Prayers, Creeds, and Responses will be displayed on the monitors in our worship areas.
10. We are discontinuing the use of the Attendance Pads as a record of attendance. We will have an online option in order to receive contact information from both members and visitors.

D. Minimize the possibility of spreading airborne virus contaminant by...

1. We are requiring attendees to wear a mask in worship. We ask that you please bring your own masks. We will provide masks for those who may not have their own. Masks will not be required on small children and those with special needs.
2. Meet and greet time will now be prior to worship but we are requesting without moving around the worship areas and without contact.
3. We are asking everyone to follow the social distancing guidelines in regard to seating. We will have volunteers giving direction to those attending. If seating gets to capacity we will have overflow areas available for attendees so that they may be a part of corporate worship.
4. If the need for additional worship services arises, new times and services may be considered.
5. We are asking everyone to honor the social distancing protocol.
6. Dismissal at the end of services will be by rows starting at the back (meaning rows closest to main doors) of the Sanctuaries and moving forward.

E. Worship will be held on Sundays at 8:30 (Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary) & 11:00 (Modern worship in the JWC Sanctuary). Overflow areas will be available in the event that numbers necessitate. It is anticipated

that worship will be shorter in length because of necessary adjustments to our Order of Worship.

- F. Until further guidance is given, communion will be served in individual serving packets during worship at Brooklet UMC.
- G. Baptism will be offered under new safety guidelines with the use of water. Those who are interested in seeking this sacrament should consult with clergy on staff.
- H. Brooklet UMC will continue to provide on-line worship on our Website, Facebook, and YouTube as an option for those who do not feel it is safe for them to attend in person.

Phase Three / Sunday School and Small Groups ...

- A. We anticipate that our normal Sunday School schedule will be allowed to meet regularly beginning Sunday, August 9th.
- B. All participants are asked to self-quarantine if they have signs of a fever or a cough.
- C. All at risk participants are encouraged to use masks.

Phase Four / Meals and Luncheons

- A. Breakfasts are tentatively planned to begin in September using CDC guidelines.
- B. Covered Dish Meals will not be held at Brooklet until deemed safe.

Plan for if a staff member or congregant becomes sick

- A. Anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during hours of operation will be taken immediately to our copier room in the main building or the back classroom in the JWC for evaluation. We must ensure that children are not left without adult supervision.

- B. Anyone who becomes sick on the BUMC Campus will be driven to either their home or hospital by a family member or designated person.
- C. We will notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality.
- D. We will advise those with exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- E. We will quarantine areas used by the sick person and not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection has been performed.
- F. We will advise staff and congregants with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the BUMC Campus until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.