

Reset, Restart, Renew: Returning to In-Person Worship

Wesley United Methodist Church, John's Island

We ***renew*** our commitment to be a Christ-centered beacon to all people. As we strive to honor the wellbeing, health and safety of all Wesley's members and guests, our Trustees, with the guidance of The South Carolina Annual Conference of the UMC and the CDC, the following protocols are in place for in-person worship at Wesley United Methodist Church, John's Island:

Reset – General Guidelines:

- Wesley United Methodist Church, John's Island is now a multi-media site. We have three ways in which one may participate in Worship – Teleconferencing, Facebook Live, and beginning Sunday, May 23, 2021, in-person worship onsite at 10:00 a.m.
- Anyone with a fever (99 or higher) or not feeling well is asked to stay home. Those in a high-risk group with underlying health concerns are encouraged to continue worshipping via FB Live and/or teleconferencing.
- Large church events and activities remain suspended.
- Graveside funeral will continue until further notice.
- Face coverings and social distancing will be expected throughout the church grounds.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be in place at every entrance and in the sanctuary space.
- No food or drinks will be prepared.
- Fully masked, fully vaccinated, small ensemble (in limited numbers) may practice and perform choral music for Sunday worship service.

Restarting – Our Worship Guidelines:

- Please be aware that *our in-person worship experience will be different* than pre-pandemic worship.
- Initially, there will be limited congregational seating of 50 (fifty) persons in worship. You may **register weekly** on-line _____ **or** by calling Mrs. Loretta Saunders (843) 571-5182 or Abe Jenkins at (843) 790-9831.
- Persons in high-risk groups or do not feel comfortable or safe returning to in-person worship are encouraged to worship at home per teleconferencing at 1-605-562-0400 Access Code 1522654# or via Facebook Live Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion will be administered on first and third Sundays of each month to accommodate our initial limited capacity.
- The sanctuary/fellowship space will be *entered through the rear doors*. A basket with face masks will be available if needed. *All are expected to honor one another by wearing a mask when on church grounds.*
- The first row of parking spaces nearest the rear door will be used for handicap parking, if needed.

- Temperature checks and a brief symptom screening will be conducted by our Health Ministry Team upon entering the building. This procedure will help us maintain a record for contact tracing, if needed. *Anyone with a temperature reading 99° and above will not be permitted to attend in-person worship.*
- Two ushers will be in place to seat, hand a bulletin to worshipers, and answer any general questions.
- Once seated, attendees are encouraged to remain in their chairs.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will dismiss people beginning at the back and moving towards the front. Both outside doors at the side will be used to exit the sanctuary/fellowship space.
- Members and guests are encouraged to congregate outside and fellowship safely.
- The pastor will not be at the door to greet people, but instead will be outside to greet anyone who wishes to speak at a safe distance.
- Family groups (same household) can be seated together, six feet from other groups or individuals.
- Initially, there will be no full choir. A small ensemble (fully vaccinated) will bless us with music.
- Initially, there will be no children's church or choir.
- Initially, there will be no Sunday School or Bible Study held in the building. Everyone is encouraged to continue meeting virtually.
- Initially, there will be no congregational singing. The CDC has determined singing to be one of the greatest spreaders of aerosols. We are invited to *hum*.
- Water fountains will not be available for use.
- Offering plates will not be passed during the service. Please feel free to leave your offering at the back of the sanctuary/fellowship space when entering. Or you may use our online giving portal and give by mail.
- As we continue to reset, restart, and renew our plans to return to in-person worship, please remember that everyone has a part to play that leads to a safe, healthy worship experience for all. Thank you for partnering with us.

Wesley United Methodist Church Family
John's Island