

## **Guidelines for In-Person Worship at St. Mark UMC (SMUMC) - Hanover**

As we prepare to resume in-person worship, the following guidelines apply to those entering the building.

Attending in-person worship services still carries some risks. We are doing everything we can to mitigate the risk, however, most of the responsibility will fall on individuals to follow the guidelines below. Our time at the church will look and feel much different until we become accustomed to a new way of being in church while waiting for this crisis to pass. It is our prayer that COVID-19 will be over sooner rather than later, as we are working diligently to determine our new normal worship experience.

The staff and lay leadership of the congregation understand that these guidelines may feel a little restrictive. Everything we have put into place is for your safety and the safety of your fellow worshippers. Please protect yourself and others by following these guidelines. Even if you feel there is little risk involved others may not feel that way. Therefore, out of respect for those attending worship services at SMUMC you will be expected to follow the guidelines below.

The building has been thoroughly cleaned and will be sanitized after each worship service. We encourage anyone in the at-risk categories to feel free to continue to worship online. However, that determination is yours. Our Tele Worship Service will remain in place on Sunday at 10:15am., while the 10:00am In-Sanctuary Service will also be broadcast via Facebook Live, YouTube and the St. Mark webpage.

### **Entering and Exiting the building.**

- ▶ Attendance at in-person worship services will require pre-registration.
- ▶ To pre-register, click the REGISTER HERE link on the church's website at <https://stmarkumchanover.org> homepage or by calling Yvonne Pelham on (410) 874-8803.
- ▶ Provide your name to the person at the Welcome Desk. Admittance will only be allowed to those who have pre-registered.
- ▶ Masks are MANDATORY and must cover both the nose and mouth.
- ▶ Those attending worship in the sanctuary must enter and exit through the designated doors, as directed by the Ushers.
- ▶ Sanitize your hands upon entering.
- ▶ Your temperature will be checked before entering the building. If your temperature is more than 100.4 you will not be allowed to enter the building.
- ▶ Do not arrive more than fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the worship service.
- ▶ Entry doors will be locked, and admittance will not be possible 15 minutes after the start of the worship service.

- ▶ Do not gather in the lobby or sanctuary before or after service. These types of gatherings will make it difficult for those entering and exiting the building to maintain proper social distancing.
- ▶ If you want to talk with family or friends, you must do so outside while maintaining adequate social distancing.
- ▶ Hand sanitizer will also be available as you exit the building.

### **While you are in the building.**

- ▶ There will be no in-person Sunday School at this time.
- ▶ Restrooms will be open.
- ▶ Do not gather with family and friends while in the building.
- ▶ Always use adequate social distancing while on SMUMC property.

### **Worship Service**

- ▶ Worship will be different.
- ▶ You most likely will not be able to sit in your usual spot.
- ▶ Maintaining social distancing will limit seating.
- ▶ The Ushers will provide direction for seating in the sanctuary and for exit at the conclusion of worship. This will further ensure a safe worship experience.
- ▶ There will be no congregational singing at this time.
- ▶ Do not shake hands or hug one another.
- ▶ Communion will continue to use the disposable element sets.
- ▶ Offering plates will not be passed. Offerings should be placed in the designated receptacle at the door as you enter or leave or via Pushpay.
- ▶ Printed worship guides will not be available. You may access the worship guide on the church website. Go to <https://stmarkumchanover.org/watch-live>.