



Lavalette United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 478/4623 RT 152
Lavalette, West Virginia 25535
Public service: 304-523-5931

June 9, 2020

Ref: Relaunch of in-person worship

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

It is my pleasure to inform you that our tentative relaunch date for in-person worship is June 21, 2020. Our Church Relaunch team has met several times to plan the safest way for us to gather in worship and those plans are complete. I ask that you familiarize yourself with the instructions that are being forwarded to you, and if you would like to see the entire plan, please ask.

It is up to each person to determine if they feel safe to return to in-person worship. I know that everyone has a comfort level and you will not be thought of in a negative way if you chose to wait. We will continue with weekly on-line services for those who may not be able to attend at this time.

I ask that everyone remember that the way we assemble is going to be different, so it will require patience as we make mistakes and experience hiccups along the way. In the end we will get through this and we will worship God together in person.

So you will be prepared, there are only two entrances that will be used when we return; the main front door of the sanctuary and one lower door facing the lower lot. Once inside please follow the directions of those people who are designated to seat people.

The proper wearing of masks is mandatory! Masks will be available if you forget yours.

See you all soon!

Rev. Raymond D. Stonestreet
Pastor, Lavalette United Methodist Church

Lavalette UMC In-person Services

(Adopted 06/08/2020)

Our first priority in returning to in-person worship at Lavalette UMC is to keep everyone in attendance safe by adhering to the social distancing guidelines for people who may attend our in-church services. As well, we will be diligent in our decontamination/cleaning of the church facilities in hopes to protect all people within the church building. This plan is being produced with a tiered return in mind (a copy of the entire plan is available on request), and will be adjusted as we progress over time. Our first tier is as follows:

Tier I

We are still at a level of social distancing which is described as follows:

- *Social distancing is required; 6' between people, no bodily contact
- *The use of face masks is mandatory
- *Children cannot roam around the sanctuary; they must stay with their adults
- *There will be no nursery available
- *No handouts, such as bulletins
- *All Bibles, hymnals, etc., will be removed from pews
- *No facility usage (FLC, sanctuary, etc.) except for worship
- *No cookies and coffee before services/no meals in the fellowship halls, or any other place
- *No singing (choir or congregation)
- *Must predetermine seating arrangements (people will be directed where to sit as they arrive. People will be directed when and how to depart after services)

Notification will be given if this list is amended.

How will service be conducted?

In the beginning it is recommended that only low risk people attend in-church services. It is thought that those who are at high risk are much safer in the confines of their own home and their attendance may cause them risks until it is reasonably safe for their return. High risk is described as follows:

- *Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- *Chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis
- *Chronic lung disease
- *Diabetes
- *Hemoglobin Disorders
- *Immunocompromised

Many conditions and treatments can cause a person to have a weakened immune system (immunocompromised), including cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, HIV with a low CD4 cell count or not on HIV treatment, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications. People who are Immunocompromised

*Liver disease

*People aged 65 years and older

Although COVID-19 can affect any group, the older you are, the higher your risk of serious disease. Eight out of 10 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years or older; risk of death is highest among those 85 years or older. The immune systems of older adults weaken with age, making it harder to fight off infections. Also, older adults commonly have chronic diseases that can increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

*People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

*Serious heart conditions, including heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathies, and pulmonary hypertension, may put people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

*COVID-19, like other viral illnesses such as the flu, can damage the respiratory system and make it harder for your heart to work. For people with heart failure and other serious heart conditions this can lead to a worsening of COVID-19 symptoms.

*Severe obesity

While some may be in the high risk category and need to consider their own health and the potential ill health of others in making their decisions about attending in-person services, services will be open to everyone, based upon your own comfort level with church Covid-19 safety precautions in place.

****Anyone who feels ill or has symptoms of an illness is required to stay home and join worship services online.***

Should anyone who attends in-person worship services be diagnosed with or be suspected of contracting Covid-19, they should notify the pastor immediately so in-person services can be suspended and all persons can be notified and asked to socially isolate for 14 days, or until cleared by health officials.

Order of service

In-church services will be limited to approximately 30 minutes in length. This is to minimize exposure to those attending from the buildup of air being emitted from others in the

sanctuary/worship space. Singing will not be permitted by the congregation or the choir at this time.

We will continue with the weekly recordings of the service, as well as live stream the service.

At this time we are unable to partake in the Sacraments, but will reinstate them as soon as we establish a safe way of doing them.

The offering plates will not be passed for collection of tithes/offerings. A container will be placed in a designated area for the deposit of tithes/offerings.

Hand sanitizing stations will be available.

People are encouraged to clasp their own hands together, as in prayer, to avoid the habit of shaking hands as a greeting. A possible alternative to hand shaking is a head nod or slight bow to others.

Arriving people will enter through the double glass doors into the sanctuary, where they will be directed where to sit.

Upon dismissal, people remain in place until they are directed when and how to exit.

Once directed when and how to exit, people must exit the building immediately (this is to prevent the disruption in the flow of predetermined safe dismissal procedures. People are encouraged not to mingle on the parking lot once leaving the building)

The drinking fountain will be off limits at this time.

It is not recommended that the church restrooms be utilized at this time; however, they will be available for emergency purposes. Proper sanitizing products will be on hand in the restrooms for self-policing after uses.

Other Phases: Other phases cannot be written at this time. They will be based on future guidance from our health officials.

Members of the Church Relaunch Team: Rev. Ray Stonestreet, Sara Marcum, Nancy Webb, Gayle Curry, Sue Ann McSweeney, Sam Mitts, Catherine Mitts, Dr. Kevin McCann, Hugh Roberts