

Introduction

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Spring City United Methodist Church has developed this plan to document the steps, precautions, limitations, and requirements necessary to facilitate a safe environment for our parishioners to come and join us in-person as we worship.

COVID-19 Pandemic Team Members

Chairperson- Kevin Rose

Pastor- Dave Grant

- Jay Maddux- SPR Chairperson
- Bill Ruffner- Trustees Chairperson
- Joe Lisa- Trustees Vice Chairperson
- Chris Haerr- Finance Chairperson
- Jim McCarter- Long Range Planning Chairperson
- Patty Crowder- SCUMC Representative to Annual Conference
- Sharon Cowart- Financial Secretary
- Judy Ezell- Music Director
- Billy Ray Patton- Church Council Lay Leader
- Linda Booker- Church Council At-Large Member
- Dorothy Hastings- Church Council Secretary
- Pat Douglas- Outreach Chairperson
- Angie Rose- United Methodist Women
- Dr. Beth Casady, D.O.- Physician
- Cindy Ross
- Gary Gilmore
- Grey Cowart
- Carolyn Haerr
- Mike Jackson

Communications with the Congregation

SCUMC will utilize a combination of PhoneTree, Facebook, the SCUMC website (springcityumc.com), and various mailings to ensure that prompt and informative communication reaches all members of our congregation.

A consolidated version of this plan will be posted to the SCUMC website followed by an announcement via PhoneTree and Facebook instructing members to visit the SCUMC website or contact the church office for a printed copy to be mailed to them.

Parishioner Precautions

- The following precautions shall be followed by all attendees entering the SCUMC facilities.
 - All attendees shall wear protective face coverings while inside the SCUMC facility.
 - Protective face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 2
 - Adult individuals who may have difficulty breathing, or those who are unable to remove the mask without assistance should remain home at this time.

- Ushers will be available to provide protective face coverings to individuals who may have forgotten theirs or any visitors who were unaware of this requirement.
- Individuals who refuse to wear a protective face covering or maintain the proper social distancing will be asked to leave the building. In the event that the individual refuses to leave upon request, the pastor will be notified to discreetly speak to the individual.
- All attendees and their immediate households are encouraged to maintain social distancing at a minimum of six feet while entering and exiting the building as well as while seated.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances and exits as well as the restrooms.
- Families (including children and youth) who live in the same household should sit together. Friends who ordinarily attend church together may also sit together.
- If a parishioner who has attended an in-person worship service should test positive for the virus, they will be required to notify the church office as soon as possible.
- Individuals should stay home if they are sick or have recently had close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of fifteen minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with a person with COVID-19.
- Individuals should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing symptoms of COVID-19.

Facility Use- Other Than Worship Services

Small Group Gatherings

- The group leader will record attendance.
- Families who live in the same household should sit together.
- The group leader will help to maximize the available seating while ensuring that the requirements outlined in this plan are followed.
- The same requirements for attending worship will be in place for small group gatherings: use of protective face coverings (these will be available for those who do not have one), hand sanitizer, sanitizing any equipment after use, and attendance recording.

A one-page checklist of the applicable requirements for small groups will be provided and require written acknowledgment of these requirements (e.g., use of protective face coverings, hand sanitizer, sanitizing the area after use, and attendance recording).

Weddings and Funerals

- Weddings and special events may utilize church facilities with the approval of the SCUMC Church Council, given that all protocols outlined in the plan for in-person worship are strictly adhered to. The church sponsor and/or families wishing to have the event will be required to participate in a briefing covering this plan prior to being granted permission for using the SCUMC facility.
- Funerals must follow our worship guidelines.

Record Keeping and Financials

- Attendance records will be kept in the church office for 30 days.
- In the event that an attendee notifies the church office that they have tested positive for COVID-19, a team will be in place to begin making immediate notifications to all parishioners who were in attendance with the affected individual within the last 48 hours. A notification will also be made to the Rhea County Health Department.

Sanitization of Church Facilities

General Cleaning

All church facilities hosting congregants will be sanitized after each service in accordance with the recommendations of the CDC.

Nursery

Cleaning Surfaces

- Frequently touched nursery surfaces will be disinfected after each use.
- If the crib is used, it will have clean sheets. Crib surfaces and bedding will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Toys that can be put in the mouth should be sanitized between uses or not used if they cannot be cleaned and sanitized.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated through contact or other body fluids will be set aside until they can be cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. They will be cleaned with water and detergent, rinsed, and sanitized with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinsed again, and air-dried. They can also be cleaned in a mechanical dishwasher.
- Machine washable cloth toys should be used by one person at a time or should not be used at all. These toys will be laundered before being used by another child.
- Toys will not be shared with other groups of infants or toddlers, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other.
- Toys that need to be cleaned will be set aside in a dish pan with soapy water or in a separate container marked for "soiled toys."
- Children's paperback books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional procedures for cleaning or

disinfection.

Avoiding Shared Objects

- Sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect will be discouraged (for example, stuffed animals, electronics, games, puzzles).
- Each child's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.

Modified Layouts

- Seating areas will be physically distanced when possible.
- Tables will face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), and children will sit on only one side of your tables, spaced apart, particularly at mealtimes.
- Activities will be planned to keep children physically distanced, when possible.

Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene

Help children learn simple steps to keep from getting and spreading COVID-19. Use visual tools, demonstrations, stories, and play:

- Workers and children will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
- If soap and water are not readily available, staff and children (over age 2) can use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Make sure all surfaces of hands are covered and that hands are rubbed together until they feel dry. Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under age 6 years.
- All children and staff should wash their hands with soap and water at frequent intervals.

Diapering a child.

- Wearing gloves is recommended when diapering a child, and avoid touching eyes.
- Where feasible, diapering should not be done by the same person who prepares food.
- After diapering, worker will wash your hands (even if you were wearing gloves) and disinfect the diapering area with a fragrance-free and EPA-registered disinfectant. If the surface is dirty, it should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.