

Calvary United Methodist Church Reopening Plan - Worship

"I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you receive from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together...."
~Ephesians 4:1-3

The intent of the Re-Entering Well Team is to establish guidelines and policies for all to enter the church safely. During this time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to take extraordinary measures. When COVID-19 is no longer a global concern and a threat to the safety of our congregation, we look forward to having our space filled to capacity. This policy is intended to be temporary although there is no formal timeframe as to when these restrictions will be lifted and services will return to normal. **The REW task force will continue to monitor the Baltimore Washington Conference, Governor Hogan and the Carroll County Health Department updates and continuously re-evaluate our recommendations. As we continue to gather more information, our current recommendations may be altered, either to a more strict or more relaxed manner.**

We are planning to have our first outdoor worship service on **July 12, 2020 at 9 a.m., together, face to face in person**, since early March. We will be following all guidelines from the CDC, the Baltimore Washington Conference, Governor Hogan and the Carroll County Health Department. Everyone is welcome. But it is each person's decision, certainly, whether to come or not, for your own safety reasons. If you are in the high risk category**, we ask that you please stay home until phase three to keep you protected. *The service will be live-streamed on Facebook live (<https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryMtAiry/>).*

Our first service will be held outside, in the church parking lot. Pray that God will fill us with the joy of worshipping him, and that everyone will be safe! Here are the details. Please follow these carefully!

- **Entrance:** Please enter from Main Street or the side of Paradise Avenue. Ushers will be there to direct you where to park. Handicap parking will be available close to the church.
- **Parking:** While we will not be marking off every other space to assist with social distancing in the parking lot, We would ask you to be mindful of where you park and try to park a space away from someone else, if feasible. If not, please be sure to wait in your car until it is safe to exit keeping social distancing in mind. If you are able, park further away than you normally would to allow closer spaces for those who may have difficulty with mobility.
- Ushers will direct seating. *Social distancing* will be observed and *masks required at all times (for those 2 and older)*. While we know you missed your church family, please avoid handshakes and hugs.

- **Come prepared for worship outside:**
 - Bring own chairs
 - hats and umbrellas (umbrellas small enough so they won't block anyone) to protect against the sun
 - dress casually.
- **No restrooms are available--no entrance into the building** ("go" at home before you come to church, service will be short!)
- **Please arrive early.** Service starts at 9 a.m. and will be 45 minutes long. Please be in your chair by 9 a.m.
- **Bulletins:** Bulletins may be sent out for you to print or have on your cell phone. **If you can, please print those ahead of time.** A few printed bulletins will be available for those who don't have technology to print.
- **Prayer requests:** Any prayer requests should be sent to CalvaryPrayerTeam@calvary-mtairy.org or visit <https://www.calvary-mtairy.org/prayer/>
- **RSVP:** *For the first couple of weeks of service, we will ask you to RSVP your attendance. Details will be shared in advance. This will help us to prepare properly for the number of people planning to attend so we can stay within guidelines for groupings. We will have a contingency plan if more people attend than planned and will not turn anyone away.* **Not asking for RSVP for 7/12/20**
- **Attendance:** When you enter the worship area, you will be asked for your name and phone number/email to capture attendance.
- **No singing:** We will ask that you not sing during worship, **even if we are outside.** There is a very high risk of producing droplets/aerosolized particles during this time. We will be using pre-recording singing and music to avoid contamination.
- While we know you missed your church family, please avoid handshakes and hugs.
- **Offering:** There will not be a formal offering during worship so your offering can be placed in a bin labeled as such either outdoors for outdoor worship or at the exit door of Good Shepherd Hall (near kitchen) or send your offering online via the various ways available.
- Children will be asked to stay with their parents at all times. If a child needs to use the restroom (only available during indoor worship), the parent must accompany them.
- Even though we will be open, we will continue to have online worship in case you prefer to stay at home.
- We ask that if you are feeling ill in any way that you please stay home. If you are feeling well to attend church and then feel sick a few days later, please notify the church if you end up testing positive for COVID-19.
- ****If you are in a high risk category, we ask that you please stay home until phase three**
The CDC has identified the following as conditions that point to higher risk of severe COVID illness: asthma, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, hemoglobin disorders, immunocompromised, liver disease, serious heart conditions, severe obesity,

people age 65 and older. Source: CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): “Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness”

- **Weather:** In the event of inclement weather and the need for a cancellation, a notification will be sent out via all social media channels by 8:15 am Sunday. Let us gather together in the church parking lot and worship in joy! Let us lift up love and praise to God! Let us welcome any who might walk by and join together with us. I hope to see you there!

Please send any questions you may have to the Church Council (council@calvary-mtairy.org).

When we feel it's safe enough to meet indoors, we will have additional requirements, in addition to those listed above, to keep you safe including those listed below.

INDOOR Worship

- There will be one service, held in the Good Shepherd Hall (GSH).
- For GSH, we recommend staying with the 100 people in the room, which is 50% capacity. If we have more than 100 people, we would move overflow to the Auditorium (max 42). This is where the RSVP is important so we can capture the intended congregation numbers.
- When you arrive at the church, you will be asked to enter the building by the back right doors (near the auditorium). These doors will be ENTER only. You will then follow the arrows past the auditorium, take a left and enter the Good Shepherd Hall at the doors on the back side of the main stairwell. You will then EXIT GSH by the doors near the kitchen and take a right out into the EXIT ONLY doors to the back parking lot. We ask that you not go downstairs for any reason. A second exit that may be used is the side door from GSH. The second exit will be used at the discretion of church staff based on the number of people in GSH.
- If you need a limited mobility parking spot, you can still park in front and use the elevator as usual and follow the same traffic pattern to GSH. We should have someone stationed at this entrance as well for sign-in. When everyone is dismissed from GSH, you can continue out the EXIT doors from GSH and head towards the elevator. Everyone else will be leaving the main exit doors to the back parking lot.
- We will be removing all paper products from GSH so feel free to bring your own bible and/or notebook.
- Due to required cleanings and social distancing, we ask that you adhere to one person at a time in the bathrooms.
- In lieu of attendance cards, we will ask you to take the time to sign in via a person taking your name and number/email address when you enter the building. This measure is taken in the event that someone becomes ill and will be able to notify you of this.
- We will ask that all guests follow the arrows on the wall to be sure you are following required flow of traffic to avoid cross contamination.

- You will be asked to sanitize your hands on the way in at our hands free hand sanitizer (and on the way out)
- There will be no tables in GSH, only chairs that are spaced approximately 6 feet apart. You may sit with your family unit but only if you have been in quarantine with them. We ask that you stay a social distance away from everyone (at least 6').
- High touch areas will be thoroughly cleaned after worship.
- **Please send any questions you may have to the Church Council.**

HIGH RISK CATEGORY:

If you are in a high risk category, we ask that you please stay home until Phase three. The CDC has identified the following as conditions that point to higher risk of severe COVID illness: asthma, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, hemoglobin disorders, immunocompromised, liver disease, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, people age 65 and older.

Source: CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) "Groups at Higher Risk for Severe Illness"