

COVID-19 Indoor Worship Policy
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Shelby, NC

The safety of all our worshipers is our overriding priority. John Wesley's first general rule "Do no harm" has served as a guiding principle for all our decisions. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues, we are monitoring the situation closely and following the directions and guidance given to us by Bishop Leeland of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, Governor Cooper, local health authorities, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. In order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and reduce the potential risk of exposure at Aldersgate UMC (AUMC), we are asking that all participants agree to the following before coming to our campus for indoor worship service.

Worship Registration: *The preference is that worshipers register and are seated as a "household unit." If you choose to be seated with extended family members outside of your individual household, please pre-register together, enter the building together, and check-in together so our ushers can seat you as one group.*

1. Worship will be held to one hour or less, and is limited to the sanctuary.
2. All attendees are considered worshipers for this document.
3. Worshipers must register with the church office (online or via phone) by noon on the Thursday before the worship service.
4. Worship will occur at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings beginning at the earliest on December 6, 2020.
5. Volunteer positions must be verified with the church secretary by Wednesday each week and fully staffed in order for worship to happen each week.
6. The maximum capacity for the Sanctuary based on Phase 3 guidelines is **85** people.
 - a. 15 worship leaders and staff
 - b. 15 Hospitality Volunteers
 - c. 55 additional worshipers
7. Restrooms are for emergencies only. The restrooms near the welcome center are the restrooms available.
8. Worshipers, volunteers, and leaders agree to practice social distancing at all times (remain 6 feet apart from people who are not residents in your household) throughout the worship service, before, and after.
9. Worshipers 2 years of age and older must wear masks or face coverings that cover the nose and mouth at all times. Worshipers must supply their own masks.
10. Worshipers must use hand sanitizer upon entering the Welcome Center.

11. By listing one's name on the attendance roster, each individual or the individual's parent/guardian agrees to abide by the above requirements and also affirms the following:
 - a. During the last 14 days, the individual has not had and is not presently experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, new loss of taste or smell, new onset of head or muscle ache, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, or a positive Covid 19 test.
 - b. In the past 14 days, the individual has not been in close proximity to someone experiencing the above symptoms or has not been around someone who is under investigation for or tested positive for COVID-19.
12. Worshipers will need to social distance in the parking lot and along the ramp to the front doors of the sanctuary as well as inside the building.
13. Upon entering the Welcome Center, worshipers will answer health screening questions, have a temperature check, and will check in their registered family unit with the registrar. If any person within the family unit has a temperature, the entire family unit will be asked to worship from home.
14. The Welcome Center leader is responsible for submitting the attendance roster to the AUMC office immediately after worship so that contact tracing may be achieved.
15. Ushers will seat worshipers from the front of the sanctuary to the back by family unit, using social distancing in the pews.
16. No bulletins will be printed at this time; they will be distributed electronically by the church secretary in an email blast on Thursday.
17. Childcare and Nursery is not available at this time, but families are encouraged to worship together. A parent or guardian must accompany children at all times.
18. Pew Paraphernalia has been removed: hymnals, Bibles, offering envelopes, pencils, attendance registers. We will not have congregational singing or corporate reading.
19. Offering plates will be located on either side of the chancel rail as worshipers leave the sanctuary.
20. Holy Communion will be offered through individual cups with wafer and juice on Communion Sunday. These will be given out by ushers as worshippers are seated. Worshipers will be responsible for throwing away all cups/trash on their way out of the sanctuary.
21. Worship leaders may remove their masks when speaking so that people who are hard at hearing can see them speak.
22. Upon exiting the sanctuary, ushers will dismiss one family unit at a time starting at the front and working towards the back of the Sanctuary. Worshipers will exit to the front of the church using the side doors of the Sanctuary and follow the

hallways to exit the building. Do not congregate in the hallways or on sidewalks to allow a safe exit for all participants.

23. Inability to comply with these guidelines may result in being asked to worship through the online options.