

## **Matthews UMC Re-Opening Update**

### **May 13, 2020**

Hello Matthews UMC Family and Friends!

Over the past few weeks, our pastoral team and lay leaders have begun exploring what re-opening Matthews UMC might look like. Realizing there is no “Light Switch” moment when we can move from isolation to participation, we will do our best to begin re-opening the church in a safe, intentional manner. Our strategy moving forward reflects our deep concern for the needs of our people, data from health experts, state and local rulings, and guidelines from our Bishop.

During this time, we will keep before us Matthews UMC’s mission to:

- † REACH people in the name of Christ,
- † TEACH everyone to be fully devoted disciples of Christ,
- † PRAISE God through worship and in everything we do,
- † SERVE others, as Christ taught us, to relieve suffering in the world.

Our priorities are:

1. Health and safety
2. Connection and care
3. Financial strength and support

We are guided by the General Rules of the United Methodist Church:

- † Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in love with God.

We want to be smart, safe, and strategic in caring for the large populations that use our campus, providing appropriate care for the most vulnerable among us. Our Facilities Team is cleaning and sanitizing throughout the week, and has ordered the appropriate cleaning products. However, due to high demand, until we have adequate supplies on hand, our campus cannot reopen.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we received guidelines from our Bishop, Paul Leeland, directing our churches to remain closed to public worship through the end of May. We have heard from many of you that online worship and small group opportunities have been faith-forming and community-building. We will continue offering online worship and educational materials moving forward.

We want to ensure that everyone coming to our campus feels assured we have created a safe and healthy environment while offering ministries with excellence. Thank you for your understanding and your expressions of gratitude to your staff team.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Paul

Click [here](#) to read *Reopening Church: Phase One for Matthews UMC*.