

## REOPENING GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT HICKORY UNITED EPC

“In all phases of reopening, we will remain in alignment with local, state, and federal public health and safety guidelines. Parishioners will be required to wear masks, use hand sanitizer, and maintain social distancing of six feet (side-to-side, as well as front and back).”

### When do we reopen?

This Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we will enter into the ‘green’ phase. Per PA guidelines, 250 people or less are permitted to gather in one room with social distancing in place. With social distancing in place, we will seat as many people feasible in the sanctuary for our 10 o’clock Sunday service. **BYOB- Bring your own Bible.**

### GUIDELINES FOR EVERYONE’S SAFETY

1. You must wear a mask while you are in the church.
2. Prior to entering the church, you will be asked the following questions.
  - a. Do you have flu like symptoms – fever, cough, shortness of breath?
  - b. In the past two weeks have you or a close contact tested positive for the Covid-19 virus?
  - c. Are you or a close contact waiting for a Covid-19 virus test?  
*(If you answer yes, you will not be permitted to enter the church. If you are ill, it is suggested that you see your physician for evaluation and possible testing for Covid-19.)*
3. Security personnel will open the door for you to eliminate physical contact with the door.
4. Upon entering the foyer, your temperature will be taken. If your temperature is normal, you will be permitted to proceed through the welcoming area to the sanctuary following the ‘Xs’ on the floor. ‘Xs’ on the floor in the welcoming area and sanctuary will serve as visual reminders of social distancing.

**We ask that you do not gather in the welcoming area and refrain from handshaking and hugging. The coffee bar is closed until further notice.**
5. Please apply hand sanitizer to your hands (dispensers will be located in the welcoming area) prior to entering the sanctuary.
6. An offering plate will be on a table at the entrance of the sanctuary for your offering/tithe to lessen physical contact.

7. Upon entering the sanctuary, an usher will lead you to your pew seat. Couples and families may sit together. We will fill the pews beginning with the pews in the front and working our way to the back. Social distancing will be practiced both side to side and front to back. Every other pew will be closed.

8. When we reach our 'full' maximum occupancy in the sanctuary with social distancing in place, no other people will be permitted in the sanctuary. You can return to your car and join in the worship service either by listening in your car with your radio dial tuned to FM 87.9 or by watching the service online through YouTube. Simply type in YouTube.com on your favorite browser. When the home page of YouTube appears, type in Hickory United EPC in the search box. Simply click on our livestream feed and praise God with us.

### **Worship Service:**

1. The service is paperless. Therefore, there will be no bulletins.
2. Our worship service will contain two Praise and Worship songs, prayer, message and a closing hymn. Lyrics to all the music will be displayed on the front screens.

### **Exit:**

1. At the conclusion of the worship service, the ushers will methodically excuse worshippers beginning with the people in the back rows first and then moving to the front of the sanctuary until all have been excused. Please maintain social distancing as you leave. Please do not congregate in the welcoming area.
2. Please use hand sanitizer on your way out of the welcoming area.

### **Additional considerations:**

1. Children's church has been placed on hold. Families are encouraged to worship together.
2. Choir is on hold at this time.
3. Restrooms will be open for your use. Please maintain social distancing in these areas as well.
4. We are hoping to expand our seating capacity on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> to include the Covenant Center.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and grace in such challenging times.

Blessings, Pastor Dan