

Motley FMC Re-opening building for worship, plan

May 26, 2020

Assumptions

- Meeting size will be determined by the Governors executive order-not to exceed 25% of the Fire Marshall capacity. Which in our case means 80-85 people per service.
- Our plan is to re-open on June 7th, with recommended safety plans in place.
- Keep on-line services going regardless of physical church attendance.
- Follow MDH guidelines "Industry guidance for safely reopening, faith based communities" as much as possible.
- Church buildings have been thoroughly cleaned, including carpet cleaning and chair sanitizing.
- Keep church family completely informed through Call-Multiplier, FaceBook and church web-page or letters.
- Any "over-flow" crowd (above the 80-85) for any event would be invited that service to the church foyer (6-8) and / or Fellowship Hall to watch on the big screen.

Other considerations:

- In order to accommodate the right number of people per service, we will institute a "reservations only" type service. In other words, **you must call and let us know which service you are planning to attend.** When we have arrived at the allowable number for that service, the others will need to attend a different service, or continue to watch on-line. Your call to make reservations, should also indicate if this is your "standing" reservation or only for a certain week. We want to accommodate all that desire to come to worship, however we must maintain CDC / MDH guidelines with social distancing, hand washing, hand sanitizers etc. This is why we need to have you reserve your spot in any certain service so we do not exceed the number allowed each service. Please do not just "show up" and expect all to be the same. We need to know who is coming to which service and who is not coming at all, to be able to determine the correct capacity and the necessity of a 3rd service. Please call us and let us know your intentions and reserve you spot(s) at which service. When the 1st service has it's 80 capacity, that will be all we can do. Visitors will also be allowed to worship to a certain amount. We have to monitor all attendees of each service. Thank you for helping us make this work.

Services

- Please stay home if you are sick, feverish, coughing etc or uncomfortable with being in crowds, even with social distancing.
- High risk individuals (those over 65 and those with underlying conditions such as cancer, asthma, and diabetes) should exercise extra caution and where necessary, shelter in place.
- Require everyone attending to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building, or go directly to the bathroom and wash hands for 20 seconds. (We will provide a person to dispense hand sanitizer in your hands)
- IF, you would like to come to the church parking lot and listen from your cars, we will be broadcasting via an FM Transmitter on 91.9 FM. You could drive in and stay in your car to listen if you wanted to.
- Direct our people to NOT congregate as they enter the building and as they leave after the services.
- When we have larger crowds worshipping, (even 50 or more) we may need to dismiss in sections for orderly, social distancing exiting.
- Nursery room will be closed unless the parent(s) is with the child/ children and exercise "social distancing" with other families.
- To begin with, our re-opening or phase I will include sanctuary "worship" only.
- There will be no children's church or children's classes to begin with but we will address and adjust as determined by leadership within and without the church. Phase 2. (MDH -MN Dept. of Health and BOA)
- We do want to encourage families with children to come and sit and worship with us, as a family unit in the sanctuary. We would also ask, please remember social distancing for all others around you and the children.

- Bible study groups will be encouraged, (10 or less) and use “social distancing” as instructed. We also want to encourage more small accountability groups / bible study groups to think about meeting in homes with others in your locale. Please advise Pastor Jim or Pastor Charles as to what you are doing, and when you are meeting with your small groups.
- Youth group, will be under “social distancing” guidelines and “gathering size” guidelines as well.
- Disinfect high traffic areas, including restrooms, sanctuary chairs, door handles, etc between services. (we will need a team or teams in place)
- No meet and greet times.
- No handshakes or hugs.
- Greeters at the door, simply hold the door open and allow people in. Greeters should wear gloves and masks, if they choose to. Or, simply prop the doors open and leave them open.
- Pew Bibles , song books, Visitors Cards and pens will be removed.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Offering boxes will be placed at the exit doors of the sanctuary. On-line giving is available and encouraged too.
- The “old sanctuary” and basement areas will be temporarily closed off for Sunday services, unless needed for over flow area.
- Church bulletins will be available to pick off the table if they want one. If you pick one up, please take it.
- Sanctuary seating is arranged to accommodate “social distancing”.
- We will have an usher helping people with seating and social distancing. (training will be necessary)
- Limit the number of people in restrooms at the same time.
- Eliminate (for now) the use of the water fountains.
- We will put a “clean team” in place to sanitize and clean between services, and the building will be thoroughly cleaned weekly as always. This will need to be 5-6 volunteers between services.
- There will be NO “fellowship / coffee / snack” time or pot-luck dinners for the near future , for phase 1 at all.
- We will address start times for multiple services, as we need to allow for the “clean team “ to do what needs to be done. (we will need to have start times at 9 am and 11 am-to allow for less contact and cleaning)

Other considerations / areas to be addressed

- Children’s ministries will be more properly addressed at a later time. (phase II)
- Communion (we may try 1 month of pre-packaged communion elements once) we may do less communion rather than monthly for the near future to eliminate close contact.
- Worship team will need to be limited to assure “social distancing”. May need to have a rotation to allow all to participate.
- Adding services to accommodate our church family and accommodate the 25 % rule....if necessary. A Saturday evening service seems to be preferred if / when needed.
- VBS-scheduled for June will be moved to August or cancelled for this summer.
- Our first Community picnic scheduled for June 10th—cancelled.....July and August to be determined.
- Youth Missions trip-scheduled for July --cancelled
- River baptism-scheduled for July -may still happen with social distancing down by the river-late July.
- Awana -scheduled to re-open in September ???? We will see what the local schools are doing by then.
- Weddings, funerals and other “group” events. Adhere to the same 25 % capacity rule and NO food.
- Post “re-opening” plan on the main doorways and send to every household and have copies available.
- Provide and allow people to wear masks if they want them.

Phase 2 will have numerous topics to prayerfully consider and we will move forward , not necessarily by the calendar, but by direction from the MDH, the Superintendent and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We must always factor in people’s safety and well-being, as well as how to continue to “feed” spiritually and make disciples in person or virtually.