

CANTON FIRST UMC



Our Plan to Regather

In reopening, Canton First UMC is providing a phased on-campus regathering plan to our congregation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan is grounded in the **Three Simple Rules of Methodism:**

We are a people that do no harm.

We practice safety precautions including physical distancing to minimize harm to others, especially the vulnerable.

We are a people that do all the good we can.

We care for the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors, providing food, emotional support, and supporting our health care system.

We are a people that stay in love with God.

When we love God through prayer, praise, and worship, we grow in love of our neighbor. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable.

Our Current Phase

- We are continuing Online Worship at 9:30a (Modern) & 11:00a (Traditional) at cantonumc.online.church.
- The Church Office has returned to normal office hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00a - 4:00p). Church staff has transitioned from a work-from-home model to regular in-office hours as of June 1. All offices and any utilized spaces are being thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Committees may request to meet on-campus adhering to special guidelines or choose to continue meeting virtually.
- Sunday School Classes and Small Groups continue to meet virtually or off-campus.
- Public access to the facilities is limited. Individuals may gain access to the building during regular business hours by pressing the intercom button to be "buzzed-in."
- We are asking that every person who enters our building is self-monitoring their health prior to arrival. Please take care of your health and protect others. If you are feeling sick, have a fever, sore throat, cough, or other symptoms, please stay home. Learn more about the symptoms of Covid-19 at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- We are making plans for a Soft Reopening Worship Experience July 5 at 9:00a (Modern) & 11:00a (Traditional). There will be limited seating for our soft opening. We will provide more details regarding seat pre-registration in the coming weeks.

Beginning July 12

- Worship on-campus will resume Sunday, July 12, with restrictions on the number of attendees and implementation of safety guidelines. We will hold two services at 9:00a (Modern) & 11:00a (Traditional). ****Please note the time for our Modern Service has changed from 9:30a to 9:00a.**
- Seating will be limited at each service to ensure that we are practicing physical distancing. Persons attending in-person worship will be required to reserve a space by registering online or calling the Church Office at (770) 479-5202. Online registration will be available two weeks prior to the scheduled worship service.
- Every person attending in-person worship will be required to wear a face mask from the time you leave your car until you return to your car.
- Adult Sunday School classes, Church Small Groups, and Recovery Groups may request to meet on-campus within guidelines, or off campus, as of July 12. [Call the Church Office to check availability for on-campus at (770) 479-2502]. ****Exception is Sunday mornings which are limited to Worship Services only.**
- There will be no Adult Sunday School classes, Small Group, Children's Church, Childcare, or Student gatherings on Sunday mornings during this phase.
- We will continue to livestream all of our services online at cantonumc.online.church.

Looking Ahead

- We will adjust our Church Reopening Plan for in-person worship, meetings, small groups, and other activities as we receive changes and updates on pandemic information and related guidelines.
- Reopening to Community use of CFUMC facilities will be considered during this phase.

FAQs

When will the church building reopen?

Our projected regathering date for on-campus worship is Sunday, July 12, 2020.

Will there be a soft reopening experience?

Yes. Our soft reopening date is scheduled for Sunday, July 5. There will be limited seating and pre-registration will be required. We will provide instructions for reserving your seat in the coming weeks.

Will we return to normal worship times (9:30a Modern and 11:00a Traditional)?

On-Campus worship will begin Sunday, July 12. Our service times will be 9:00a (Modern) and 11:00a (Traditional). ****Please note the change in time for our Modern Service.** Upon entering for on-campus worship, we ask that congregants follow social distancing guidelines and bring their own mask, personal hand sanitizer, and Bible.

What is the estimated length of time of each worship service?

Each service will last approximately 45 minutes.

Are face coverings required for on-campus worship?

We are committed to loving our neighbor and doing no harm. For the safety and well-being of our church family, and in adherence with CDC and DPH guidelines, face coverings will be required for all staff, volunteers, and congregants during worship. We will have additional masks available upon entry for those who may not have one.

What will be the basic guidelines for seating and attendance? Will there be an online registration to reserve my seat?

Pre-registration will be required for each service as seating will be limited to ensure proper adherence to social distancing guidelines. Registration for seating will open two weeks prior to the scheduled service. We will announce how to reserve your seat in the coming weeks.

Why are we requiring pre-registration?

Due to limited seating capacity, reservations are required so that we do not turn anyone away.

Will you have hand sanitizer available?

Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry into our facility. We do advise that our congregants bring personal hand sanitizer's as well.

Will Canton Kids and 247 Student Ministry be open for my child or student upon initial return?

Canton Kids and 247 Students will not gather for on-campus groups at this time. We encourage families to worship together at our on-campus Sunday morning services until these groups can begin meeting again in their respective classes. Canton Kids and 247 Student Ministry will continue to offer alternative meetings and activity options via Zoom and other online resources.

What activities will be provided for my child on Sunday mornings?

We are providing worship bags for children prior to our Sunday services. Parents can pick-up the worship bag(s) and reuse it each week, whether their worshiping on-campus or from home. The worship bags are available for pick-up on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00p at the Church. Activity kits will include several weeks worth of resources for your child! If you'd like to create your own activity kit from home, [click here](#). If you have additional questions, please contact cantonkids@cantonumc.org.

FAQs

What about vulnerable individuals?

Vulnerable individuals are defined by the White House Coronavirus Task Force as elderly individuals & individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

Vulnerable individuals should take extra precautions and considerations when determining if they will return to on-campus worship. While we will be taking additional precautions and safety measures to promote a safe, sanitized, and secure on-campus experience, we will continue to provide online streaming, devotionals, prayers, and resources for individuals who cannot, or are not ready, to return to in-person worship at the time of regathering.

How will entering the sanctuary be handled?

When you first arrive in the parking lot, which will act as our new welcome center, our hospitality team will be there to greet you and direct you to the appropriate entrances (please remember to maintain 6 feet of distancing). Designated entrances will be marked to enter the facility. Our priority is to keep our congregants safe through a contact free, comfortable, and spiritually filled worship experience.

How will exiting the sanctuary be handled?

Congregants will exit through the sanctuary doors. Congregants will be guided to exit by sections instead of all at once to maintain 6 feet of social distancing.

What if I need to use the restroom?

Restrooms will be available for use, although occupancy will be limited to maintain social distancing.

What if I still feel uncomfortable regathering for in-person worship at this time?

We miss you and we are excited to see you when you feel comfortable returning. Please know that we will continue to offer Church Online services when we begin re-entry to on-campus worship. We will return to livestreaming our services at 9:00a (Modern) & 11:00a (Traditional), starting Sunday, July 5. ***Please note the change in time for our Modern Service.**

Will the church be open during the week?

The Church Office is operating under normal hours and will be open Monday-Friday, 8:00a – 4:00p.

Will my Small Group/Spiritual Growth Group/Sunday School Class be able to meet on campus once we reopen?

Adult Sunday School classes, Church Small Groups, and Recovery Groups may request to begin meeting on-campus within guidelines as of July 12. [Call the Church Office to check availability for on-campus at (770) 479-2502]. ***Exception is Sunday mornings which are limited to Worship Services only.**

Will there be a limit to my group size when meeting at the church?

Availability of group meeting space will be limited based on required safety precautions, including social distancing.

FAQs

Will we receive Holy Communion?

We are working on a plan to offer Holy Communion to ensure the safety of our congregants.

I'm New to Canton First UMC. How can I learn more?

Welcome! We are so excited that you have decided to join us in worship at Canton First UMC! As we transition back to on-campus worship, we look forward to meeting you very soon! Our service times beginning July 12 for in-person worship are: 9:00a (Modern) and 11:00a (Traditional). Please consider filling out our online connection card at cantonfirstumc.org/online-connection-card/. We would love to know more about you and provide you with more information about our church!

How can I learn more about on-campus worship reopening plans?

To learn more about our on-campus reopening plans, please visit: cantonfirstumc.org/regather

Guidelines for Contact Free On-Campus Worship, Beginning July 12

SERVICE TIMES

We will gather on-campus for worship Sundays at 9:00a (Modern) and 11:00a (Traditional). *Please note the time change for our Modern Service.

SEATING

Seating will be limited for social distancing and will require prior registration. Instructions for reserving your seat will be sent in the coming weeks.

SANITATION PROCEDURES

Church custodians are using products confirmed to kill viruses and are focused on ensuring our buildings are clean and well stocked with hand sanitizer, soap and paper towels, as well as sanitizing high touch areas (hard surfaces, door handles, tables, countertops, and restrooms). The sanctuary and adjacent areas will be disinfected before each service. We are also upgrading the air conditioning filter system to ensure a high level of clean air quality and to capture airborne viruses and bacteria from coughs and sneezes.

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS

There will be two doors marked for entry and exit. Our hospitality team will escort you and your family to your seat upon entering the facility. After the service, you will be dismissed gradually.

MASKS

All staff, volunteers, and congregants must wear a mask upon entering the building for worship.

GIVING

There will be giving stations located in the front entries. Offering plates will not be passed. Online giving and text-to-give is also available.

FEELING SICK?

Please take care of your health and protect others. Please stay home if you are sick, have a fever, sore throat, or cough. Learn more about the symptoms of Covid-19 at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

SOFT REOPENING

The soft reopening will be held Sunday, July 5. Seating is limited. Instructions for reserving your seat for our soft opening will be sent in the coming weeks.

CANTON KIDS

We will be waiting until a later date to re-launch children's church and childcare. We will have an activity pack available for pick-up the Wed. before each Sunday gathering. Contact cantonkids@cantonumc.org for more info.

247 STUDENTS

While there will be no student gatherings on Sunday mornings just yet, students are encouraged to join in worship with their families. Drive-in services for students are also scheduled for Sunday evenings at 6:30p. Contact john.holloway@cantonumc.org for more info.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS

Spiritual Growth Groups that typically meet on Sunday mornings will not regather yet. Continued online gatherings are encouraged.

SERVE

If you would like to serve on our hospitality, tech, or facilities team to ensure we are properly staffed for reopening, please call the Church Office. We appreciate your help and support!

CONTACT FREE SERVICE

We are offering a contact free service, which means there will be no bulletins, hymnals or Bibles in the pews. We encourage congregants to bring their own Bible from home.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We will have proper spacing between pews, and our ushers will ensure that there is six feet distance between families.