



**MANCHACA**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Homecoming:

A Comprehensive  
Plan for Reopening  
Manchaca United  
Methodist Church

## **Homecoming: A Comprehensive Plan for Reopening Manchaca United Methodist Church**

Manchaca UMC is looking forward to being together as a church family following the COVID-19 Closure.

We are putting in place steps to provide a clean and safe environment that is mindful of health needs and issues in preparation for a “non-touch” worship experience. We will be taking extra care to disinfect our facilities due to COVID-19.

What follows are the plans that our staff and Homecoming Committee have put together regarding reopening. We will not be opening everything all at once. We want to take a very measured approach to ensure the health and safety of our church family. Our approach is conservative, meeting and exceeding the requirements of our state and county governments. Of course, no absolute guarantees of safety can be given and so we encourage all to exercise their own caution and judgement.

We will be monitoring the situation in the Austin area and making updates to the plan as the crisis changes.

### **Step 1**

- We will be offering two services on our campus: a traditional worship service at 8:30am in the sanctuary and contemporary worship service at 11am in the Family Life Center. Initially, there will be no 11am service in the sanctuary. Both the 8:30am and 11am services will continue to be live streamed via Manchaca UMC Facebook Live.
- If you are sick, have been sick, or have family members who have been sick, please worship from home via Facebook Live.
- If you consider yourself vulnerable or immunocompromised, we encourage you to continue to worship from home via Facebook Live. The Center for Disease Control considers people vulnerable who are 65 and older, and people who have chronic lung disease, asthma, heart conditions, obesity, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, or are immunocompromised.
- We will not be offering Sunday school classes. We encourage classes to continue meeting online until further notice.
- The sanctuary will be arranged in order to facilitate proper distancing.
- Members of the same household can sit together while adhering to proper distancing from other households.
- Childcare will not be provided. Parents should take their children to worship and practice social distancing.
- The Hospitality time (coffee and cookies) will be suspended until further notice.
- Offering plates will be available at exits following each service. Giving can also be conducted online through our website
- We anticipate a limited number of weekday small groups beginning meeting in person during this step.

### **Guidelines in place for the foreseeable future:**

- Greeters will be at all entrances to open doors to minimize the amount of contact.
- Certain bathrooms, classrooms, and some hallways will be closed to limit the need for custodial sanitation of unused spaces.
- Please bring and wear a mask. Those who come without one will be given one (except for young children).
- Every other pew will be closed and clearly marked as closed.
- Ushers will assist in seating to help maintain social distancing. They will also aid in dismissal by sections.
- Please refrain from any kind of physical contact with non-family members.

- Worshippers are requested to remain seated for the duration of the service. Please keep children with the family at all times.
- Custodial staff and volunteers will ensure the cleanliness and sanitation of restrooms and worship spaces.