

REOPENING PLANS FOR EMILIE UMC
From EUMC Leadership Team*

The leadership team of Emilie UMC has been holding frequent virtual meetings to discuss when it will be safe to reopen the building, to hold in-person worship &/or meetings, what will be required when we do reopen, and what changes will need to be made to “normal” building operations. We thank you for your patience and understanding as the national, state and county agencies work to implement plans to move to the next phase of the pandemic.

At the virtual meeting held Wednesday, May 20th, Emilie’s leadership team unanimously agreed NOT to reopen the building immediately when the county reaches phase YELLOW in the coming weeks. The committee will continue to work closely with the Day School and may allow the building to be open for the Day School to provide care to families within the community before the church is able to gather in person. We have also contacted the leaders of Head Start and will evaluate their proposed plans once we receive them.

The decision to delay reopening of public worship and activities is based on 3 key elements: safety, quality, and children.

1. Safety for everyone
 - A. Due to current demand, items needed to clean and sanitize the church regularly are still unavailable.
 - B. Plans for restrooms, welcome center, sanctuary set-up need to be outlined.
2. Quality of worship experience (based on CDC and EPA Conference guidelines)
 - A. limit of gathering size of 25 or less
 - B. restriction of no singing
 - C. maintaining social distancing in worship and when entering/exiting the building
3. What do we do with the children?
 - A. The CDC and other childcare agencies have put together specific guidelines for schools and childcare organizations.
 - B. Those guidelines will be incredibly challenging to implement with in-person worship.

These factors would make it impossible to hold a safe in-person worship at this time. The committee will continue to meet weekly (via Zoom) for thoughtful and careful planning of new building procedures and safety standards. Staff will continue to provide an online worship service Sunday morning at 9:30 AM (via the church Facebook page), as well as a mid-week message from Pastor Mike, Chapel for the children, and other spiritual resources. Please reach out to Pastor Mike or any of the church staff members if you or your family have any physical needs or prayer requests, so that we can continue to be the Church and support the church body in whatever ways we can.

Our sincere desire is to be together in face-to-face fellowship within the doors of Emilie UMC as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then we pray health and safety for all.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ^[a] ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ^[b] There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31

*LEADERSHIP TEAM members are STAFF: Pastor Mike Roberts, Cindy Calderone, Ann Ermer, Ryan Fleming, Jessica Keller, Tami Lewis; VOLUNTEER LEADERS: Susan Lowe– treasurer & chair of Finance, Albert Sylvester-chair SPRC, Gary Tice-chair Church Council, Pam Tice-Lay Leader, Representative TBD- Trustees