Aldersgate UMC In-Person Worship FAQs

What should I expect when I arrive at church for worship?

Please park in the east or west parking lots and enter/exit the building through the Main Entrance or Office Entrance doors.

Please do not use the west Ramp Door near the Wesley Room or the lower level Family Life Center doors to access the building.

The Main Entrance and Office Entrance doors will be propped open or opened for you by a Greeter.

We are requesting that everyone who attends worship wear a face covering. (Children under the age of 3 or those having a condition that prevents masking will not be requested to wear face coverings). We will have a few face coverings available if you forget to bring one.

Please put on your face covering before you enter the building, keep it on during the service and wear it until you have exited the building.

We are asking that you please do not come to the church significantly before the 9:30 services begin and that you leave promptly afterward. We will not be having Fellowship Time or refreshments during the summer.

If you want to have extended conversation with another person, please do that outside in the parking lot, while maintaining safe social distancing.

Please limit your access in the building to the sanctuary and narthex gathering areas. The educational wing on the main level and the entire lower level are not accessible at this time.

Please do not congregate in any area, especially not in areas where others are entering or exiting the building.

The children’s nursery will not be staffed and the nursery area will not be available at least through the remainder of the summer.
What will worship be like?

Sanctuary seating has been identified with about half of the pews accessible so that individuals/couples/families will be able to maintain a safe social distancing of 6 feet from other members. Please sit only with others that you have a family relationship to. We anticipate that each service will have no more than 50 people in attendance.

Bulletins will be placed on the pews prior to the service.

Hymnals and Pew Bibles have been temporarily removed from the sanctuary. All readings will be projected on the screens.

We will not be distributing or receiving back Connect Cards. If you have pastoral care needs or prayer concerns to share with Eric or Staff, please communicate those directly on Thursday or Sunday morning or during the week by email, phone or text.

The Children’s worship items and children’s worship activity packs have been removed from the sanctuary.

The worship service will be shortened with the goal of about 35-45 minutes.

Once you are seated there will not be any required times of standing. You will be able to remain seated during the service.

We will be significantly limiting congregational singing and congregational prayers.

We will not be passing offering plates during the service. Offering plates will be provided at the back of the sanctuary when worship is concluded.

Both the Thursday morning and Sunday morning services will be at 9:30 a.m. The services will both follow the same format and flow. You may come to either service. The Thursday service will be recorded and provided online the following Saturday evening. An online and by phone registration process will be provided for you to indicate early in the week which service you plan to attend.

We will not be providing communion until later in the year. When we do begin offering communion we will have a new liturgy and format and be using individually sealed cups and wafers.
What else should I be aware of or plan on?

Greet people with a wave and a smile, not with handshakes or hugs.

Maintain a safe and comfortable distance from others. Be especially aware that each person has their own sense of what a ‘safe’ space is.

Refrain as much as possible from touching common surfaces (door handles, table tops, pew backs).

We are asking that you limit use of the bathrooms as much as possible. If you use the bathroom, please wipe down any surfaces that you have touched (toilet handle, faucet, counter, light switch, and door handle).

If you feel ill, are running a fever, have any Covid 19 symptoms, if you know or suspect that you have been around someone who has Covid 19 or has recently tested positive, or if you have tested positive within the past 14 days please do NOT come to worship! Wait until you are confident that you nonsymptomatic or that you have tested negative.

In collaboration and consultation with the Chin Congregation, both of our communities are in agreement that the Chin Congregation will resume in-person worship on the same week we begin. The Chin Congregation will be meeting in the Family Life Center and will have use of the kitchen, fellowship hall, and lower level room 130 across from the gym. The Chin Congregation will enter and exit the building using the family life center lower level doors on the south end of the building. The leadership of both congregations agree that this arrangement best meets our in-person worship needs at this time.

The church office and building will also be reopening on Tuesday, July 7th. Our Summer Building hours will be Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. When the building reopens on July 7th, we will be requesting that anyone coming into the building wear a face covering unless under the age of 3 years old or if you have a medical condition that prevents wearing a face covering.