

ROADMAP TO REOPENING COVENANT

The leadership, staff, and health advisory team of Hamilton Mill UMC are excited to share our Roadmap to Reopening: A multiphase plan to reopening the HMUMC campus. Because the health of our congregation and community is of the utmost importance, this is a plan that has been steeped in prayer, extensive conversation with medical and health experts, and consideration for the safety and well-being of our church.

Of course, reopening the doors of a church is different than any other business or organization. Our guidelines are shaped by far more than state or federal mandates, but by Jesus' greatest commandment to "love God and love your neighbor as yourself."

Therefore, in an effort to reopen our campus in a way that is rooted in love, we've created a Roadmap to Reopening Covenant for our church to serve as the foundational basis for our reopening plans. Throughout the Bible, covenants were used not only to establish a promise between God and God's people, but also within the community of faith as a pledge of mutual love, support, and commitment to each other.

This covenant will serve as our faithful promise to each other that we will continue to prayerfully and responsibly care for each other during this unprecedented time. This covenant is also our promise to embody our love for God and others by maintaining the highest level of safety and care we can offer our church family.

As a church staff, we will covenant to:

1. Follow up-to-date safety precautions and preventive actions provided to us from the Center for Disease Control, our state government officials, and any additional instructions from the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.
2. Maintain the highest level of cleanliness and sanitization standards. The church will be cleaned and disinfected regularly, as well as multiple cleanings of restrooms, worship center, and other high-traffic areas while in use.
3. Make available masks, hand sanitizer, clean facilities, and a safe environment that reduces potential of exposure.
4. Clearly communicate decisions and updates as we work through our phased reopening.
5. Continue to have an engaging online worship and connection experience so that our congregation can return when they feel most safe and comfortable

As a congregant, visitor, or attendee, you will covenant to:

1. Stay home from onsite gatherings if you are sick, have a fever, present any symptoms of a cold, flu, COVID-19, or if you have been in contact with anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
2. Wear a mask or face covering to all gatherings. Handmade masks provided by our Prayer Quilt Ministry will be available if you forget yours or need one. Children under the age of 3 are not required to wear masks.
3. Maintain 6ft distance from other attendees, including refraining from shaking hands, high fiving, and hugs. Usual fellowship spaces will not be in use at this time; gathering in the Narthex and coffee stations will not be available at this time.
4. Respect all rules, procedures, and policies of our Roadmap to Reopening Plan. Please respect the signage, honor direction from our team members, and leave any physical barriers in place to promote public health.
5. Acknowledge that while HMUMC is doing our best to limit potential for exposure, by attending any onsite gathering you are assuming the risk of contracting COVID-19. We strongly encourage vulnerable populations and those with underlying health conditions to continue participating with us online.
6. Pray fervently for our church, our community, and our world. Above all, let's promise to pray for the spiritual and physical strength, health, and well-being of one another, knowing that "the prayers of a righteous people are powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

