

Return to Corporate Worship at Leland Community UMC*

Frequently Asked Questions

The mission of the Leland Community UMC is “to glorify God by helping people to follow Christ Jesus together.” Central to this vision is a deep love for our corporate gatherings that prioritizes Scripture-centered preaching on Sunday mornings. Our ability to meet again during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is determined, in part, by our governing authorities. The following guidelines characterize our corporate gatherings.

*Please note that these plans are subject to further development, and additional guidelines provided by our governing authorities.

Some General Considerations

No one should feel obligated to return to in-person worship before they are ready to do so.

We will continue to provide our online service platforms for those who may not be able to attend in person, or who are uncomfortable attending in person.

If you have a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or have been travelling extensively nationally or internationally, please stay home.

Services and Registration

Service Times and Locations: Sunday, 10:00 a.m., in the Leland Community UMC Sanctuary.

Participation Limits: Each service will be limited to 70 participants plus worship team members, who will be kept to a minimum. Why and how did we arrive at this number? We carefully measured the seating availability of our sanctuary and added in the social distancing guideline of a minimum of 6 feet between congregants (unless congregants are a married couple or a family with children) and took into consideration all available spaces in the sanctuary that gave us the 70 person limit.

Registration: Members and friends will **need to pre-register**. We will insist on not exceeding the stipulated capacity (currently set at 70). This limit is to allow for social distancing guidelines to be met, and appropriate measures accomplished as people are entering and exiting the building. Pre-registration for services will be done online via *Eventbrite*, and registration links can be found on our website as well as our Facebook page. For your convenience we list the registration link here as well:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leland-community-umc-sunday-worship-service-tickets-114469039980>

It is helpful for everyone (family units or single persons) to pre-register for the services they plan to attend. We will not have seats for anyone not registered. Please pre-register no later than 24 hours prior to Sunday worship (i.e. by 9:30 a.m. Saturday). You can pre-register for as many services as you know you will be attending in advance of those dates.

Church doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start of a service. Upon arrival, all participants will check in at the main church entry doors to the sanctuary. Volunteers will search for your name on the reservation list. We will keep your reservation until 5 minutes after the start of the service.

Registration Confirmation and Cancellation: Registered participants will receive a confirmation email. If you are no longer able to attend or need to make an adjustment, use the confirmation email to manage/cancel your reservation.

Facility Access: The only building access on Sunday mornings will be the main Sanctuary doors. No other building access is available to allow us to adhere to both state and federal sanitation guidelines.

Parking: Park in the main parking lot (by the Leelanau Children's Center) or along the streets. Follow the arrows leading to the main Sanctuary doors. These doors will be the only entrance to the church. Six (6) handicap parking spaces are available in the main parking area.

Entrances and Exits: All attendees will enter the building through the main sanctuary entry doors. Participants will be dismissed by row, exiting the sanctuary through the side door by the organ. All doors will be propped open to avoid using handles.

Preparations and Other Elements

Sanitizing: Before and after each service we will sanitize pews, chairs, bathroom and entryways and exit doors. There will also be marked hand sanitation stations. We encourage you to make use of this important step in keeping ourselves and everybody else safe. During the service we will sanitize the bathroom on an as needed basis.

Face Masks: All congregants will be required to wear a face mask. The State of Michigan requires face masks in public settings. We strongly encourage our church family to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth at all times. Please bring your own mask. If you do not have one, we will provide a disposable mask.

Seating: All seating in the service will adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Special exceptions will be given to households who wish to sit together.

Bulletins: No printed materials will be handed out.

Offering: Online giving is strongly encouraged. Before and after the worship service volunteers will have baskets ready to receive your offerings. Baskets will not be passed to or between the participants.

Lord's Supper/Communion: When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we will use sanitized, pre-packaged elements.

Kids and Students: No nursery, preschool, children, or students' programs will be available in order to honor the social distancing guidelines during worship gatherings. We are committed in seeking alternate means of assisting parents in providing spiritual care for their children.

Coffee Fellowship: There will be no coffee or refreshments served.

Funeral Services: Funeral or memorial services for members of the Leland Community UMC will be considered on a case by case basis. We will work with the family and the funeral home in compliance with the CDC's Funeral Guidance. Services will follow many of the same guidelines as a worship gathering. Follow this link for the CDC's Funeral Guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/funeral-guidance.html>

Ministry Events: Ministry events of the Leland Community UMC will be considered on a case by case basis. We encourage our church family to look for opportunities to serve our community outside the church. Please contact the church office with any request to use the church facilities for a ministry event.

Church Office Hours: Our Church Office will be staffed on a limited basis. Most church-related work will continue to be done in a home office manner. It is best to call ahead (231/256-9161) if you need to pick up or drop off something at the church or need to speak or meet with one of the staff. Our church emails and voice mail accounts are checked regularly every day.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days after attending a worship service, please notify the church immediately!

How Can I Better Understand All the Fuss About the Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

The best source of information will be the Center for Disease Control and Intervention (CDC).

Follow this link for the latest information and precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

An excellent source for current local information and developments is the website for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department: <http://www.bldhd.org/coronavirus-covid-19>

You can also find more information via the World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>.

Thank you for your understanding during these unsettling times. We serve the ONE who created heaven and earth, and God will carry us through this crisis as well as guide our best scientists to develop an effective vaccination to counter the COVID-19 virus.

Remain safe. Remain courageous. Remain faithful.

In Christ Jesus our Lord,
Pastor Daniel Hofmann