



# Kenmore United Methodist Church

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## KUMC Ministry Staff:

*Senior Pastor:* Rev. Rebekah Sweet;  
*Pastoral Associate/Children's Ministry Coordinator:* Deacon Bonnie LeValley;  
*Pastor of Visitation:* Rev. Gail Lewis; *Director of Music:* Ms. Susan Schuman;  
*Preschool Coordinator:* Ms. Sara Kane

## PREPARING FOR SAFE REOPENING

June 12, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

May the love and joy of Christ be yours this day!

It has been a LONG time since most of us have seen one another, worshiped together in-person, and served together. I yearn to see you all face-to-face, but I am willing to wait until our reunions can be safe, and our interactions free from most possibilities of viral infection spread. Above all else, I desire for all of us to live and function in a safe environment where the life God has given us may flourish.

As the Western New York region is about to enter Phase 3 of Reopening, Kenmore UMC staff and leaders have been busy preparing a plan for a slow and safe reopening of functions within our church building. While diligent cleaning and disinfecting is happening in preparation for our first gathering in the building, keeping everyone safe will depend upon the faithfulness of every person entering our facility. The singular focus of our Reopening Team is to reopen Kenmore UMC Church at a time and in a way that will provide utmost care for the physical health and spiritual needs of everyone. Therefore, the Reopening Team, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, the Lay Leadership Team, and the Church Staff, have developed a REOPENING PLAN which you will find attached to this letter. Please read the Plan carefully.

Here are the essentials:

**Our anticipated first Sunday of in-person worship will be on  
Sunday, July 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

***Use Canopy/Parking Lot and Delaware Rd Entrances ONLY.***

*If you are sick, or if you do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship at this time, please stay home and watch the service via live streaming. We understand!*

All in attendance must **wear a mask**, must **keep a distance of 6 ft.** from others with whom that person does not share a residence, practice diligent personal hygiene, complete a health screening upon entering the building, and have your name and contact information recorded in our Attendance Log each time you enter.

Our Service of Worship will require a few changes as safety measures. We will not be distributing bulletins or hand-outs of any kind. We will not pass offering plates, but rather will have a receptacle for offerings in the back of the sanctuary, in addition to the availability of electronic giving through the church website. We will not be seated close together, but will maintain an appropriate distance in the pews as well. We will not be greeting one another with kisses, hugs, handshakes, or any touching (I recommend a "holy wave"). And, **we will not be**

**singing.** However, we will be blessed with beautiful music, and possibly have the chance to hum along.

For the summer, we will only be using necessary portions of the church building, due to the labor intensive need to clean and disinfect whole areas between each use. Please respect and follow instructions on all posted signage. Many areas of the building will be closed through the remainder of the summer. Those areas are delineated in the Re-Opening Plan.

Other than Sunday worship, one memorial service per week as needed, and vital office work, the building will remain closed. There will be NO gatherings of church groups or community groups in the building throughout July and August. We will endeavor to inform groups when the Trustees determine that it is safe to resume meeting in this sacred space. Please watch for more news on such changes on our website and in the newsletter.

Please be assured that our Plan meets the NY Forward, CDC, and Upper New York Conference guidelines and requirements for Houses of Worship.

Let's remember to count our blessings during these days of transition in each of our lives. God has blessed us with capable leadership, disciples committed to following the way of Christ, and the ever-present guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us onward.

Serving with Joy and Anticipation!

*Rev. Beckie Sweet*

### **Re-Opening Plan May 29, 2020**

In order to open our church building for Sunday Services, Memorial Services and normal office functions, the following plan is established to properly provide a clean and safe environment for all who enter our facility. We plan to utilize only the parts of the building that are needed for services and proper functioning. Restroom facilities will be provided.

For Sunday and Memorial Services, the Delaware Road main doors, as well as the parking lot entrance will be the points of entry to the building. There will be hand sanitizer stations at both entrances. We will not be holding receptions or serving food in the building after either Sunday Services or Memorial Services. The areas of the building that are not to be used are the following:

Basement	Kitchen
Parlor	Parlor Kitchen
Education Wing	Education Wing Basement
Offices	Third Floor including Balcony

These spaces will be closed off and signage installed to notify people that there is no entry into these spaces. The main floor including the Sanctuary, Library, Columbarium and rest rooms will be open.

During normal office functions (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), the Landers Road doors will be the only point of entry for all staff, visitors and volunteers. Other doors will be locked and signage posted. A sign in log will be available at that point for all to sign when entering the building as well as leaving the building. All spaces listed above will be closed with the exception of the third floor offices. Anyone planning to enter the building during normal operational times (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) will call and make prior arrangements with the church office.

In order to provide a safe environment for services, the Sanctuary, Library, Columbarium, first floor men's and women's rooms, stairways and entrances will be completely cleaned and disinfected each Thursday. All surfaces such as pews, door hardware, restroom facilities, and tabletops etc. will be disinfected utilizing a misting method with EPA listed disinfectant. Entry doors will be permanently held open during services. Sanitizer stations will be available at both entrances open to the building.

After the spaces are disinfected on Thursdays, the building will be closed and signage posted at the doors notifying people to not enter the building until either Saturday or Sunday morning.

When Memorial Services are held, they will be scheduled for Saturday mornings at 10:00 am. The spaces will then be disinfected again after the service for use on Sunday mornings.

Everyone entering the building will be required to wear a face covering. All will be encouraged to maintain the social distancing recommendation of 6 feet except families and those who are attending together. Every other pew will be closed off to seating. All bibles, hymnals, envelopes and other material will be removed from the pew backs. There will be no cushions utilized. People will be reminded to refrain from handshakes, hugging and the like. There will be no singing for the time being, but there will be music.

We will not have the traditional offering or passing of the offering plate. Offerings can be left at the back of the sanctuary in the place indicated. We will not be offering bulletins or any announcement handouts.

During office functions, the KUMC building will be open only to those who need to use the offices. The building will not be open at all from Thursday (after cleaning and disinfecting) to Saturday or Sunday. The building will also not be open to anyone at any time (except Sunday) unless prior arrangements are made.

This plan will be in effect until further notice.

Board of Trustees