

# SALINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COVID-19 POLICY- JAN/FEB 2021

*The following has been created in accordance with the CDC, State & Local Health Departments, and UMC Michigan District Recommendations. It contains our best practices for continuing to keep our church family as safe as possible while we navigate this unprecedented time.*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, GO TO [FUMC-SALINE.ORG](http://FUMC-SALINE.ORG)*

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## OUR CHURCH BUILDING

- **OFFICE HOURS:** To limit both our staff's & our visitor's exposure, we ask that you continue to call ahead to make an appointment if you need to come to the church, Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **WORSHIP SERVICES:** Decisions regarding in-person worship will be made by our task force while considering case numbers and positivity rates, as well as the recommendations of our medical task force members. Our experience dictates that we remain flexible in this ever changing pandemic. We appreciate your patience as we make decisions that reflect our desire to keep our church family as safe as possible. The recorded services are posted on our website to watch anytime, so you don't have to miss church if you can't tune in at 9:00 am on Sundays!
- **MINISTRY FOCUSED SMALL GROUPS:** Ministry focused small groups of 10 or less participants are able to meet in person. Mask wearing, social distancing and hand sanitizing are required of all participants as in previous in-person gatherings, and we ask that you not come to the church if you are feeling ill. Small group meetings must be scheduled through the office.
- **IN-PERSON GATHERINGS:** The church continues to be closed to outside groups until further notice. At this point, the church will perform funerals for groups of 25 or less for families willing to agree to our present safe gathering practices.

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## SERVING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE:** Please do not hesitate to call the church office at 734-429-4730 if you have questions or need assistance. Someone is in the office M-F, and the answering machine is regularly monitored. For emergencies, call Pastor Tom directly at 419-262-5575.
- **CONTACTING MINISTRY STAFF:** Much of our ministry staff is working from home when possible, as directed by MDHHS and UMC's Bishop Bard. We are always reachable by phone, text or email and would love to hear from you! The church office can provide contact information.
- **SAFE PRACTICES:** The church is regularly cleaned & sanitized. Common areas, restrooms, and high touch surfaces continue to receive extra attention. Hand sanitizing stations are available throughout the church.
- **WAYS TO CONNECT:** The church staff continues to endeavor to offer a variety of ways to keep our church as connected and active as the situation allows from many platforms for all age groups. Our church is NOT closed and its ministry is more essential than ever!

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## KEEPING EACH OTHER SAFE

*It has been a difficult 10 months, but our goal has always been to keep our church family safe. Even though you know the drill, here are reminders.*

- **AT A CHURCH EVENT?** Masks covering mouth and nose & Social Distancing required
- **NEED TO SOCIALIZE?** Online, On The Phone, Outside is best for everyone! It is only natural to want to chat with folks you miss, but we ask that everyone exit the building promptly after in person worship.
- **FEELING SICK? STAY HOME!**
- **IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOME CONTRACTS COVID-19** and you have recently been to the church, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

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*You are not forgotten...you are not alone...*