**Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church  
Re-Opening Plan**

Phase I

Sunday, May 2

1. If desired, church small groups and committees may meet in-person at the church. Group leaders will need to contact Julie Lebria at [office@pgumc.org](mailto:office@pgumc.org) or 919-787-7763 before meeting to discuss logistics and expectations.
2. Church small groups include Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, and groups like Prayer Shawl Ministry or Book Club.
3. Church leadership continues to keep up to date with CDC recommendations, government mandates, and studies from accredited organizations. Any small groups meeting inside will need to practice social-distancing and mask-wearing. If everyone in your church small group is vaccinated and you wish to meet OUTSIDE, then mask-wearing is not mandatory. This is ONLY if you know your group members are all fully-vaccinated.
4. Small groups may also choose to meet off-campus. We ask that CDC guidelines are followed.
5. If food is desired, serving and eating must be done outside while socially distanced.
6. If someone is diagnosed within 14 days after meeting, they should let the church know. We will have detailed logs of who’s been in what building and will contact people accordingly. If you have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 (and are unvaccinated) or have had COVID in the prior 14 days, please remain at home.

Sunday, May 16

1. Pre-recorded services will end. We will have a 10 a.m. service in the Sanctuary allowing around 75 people, not including staff, to attend worship. The service will be streamed live and then posted to social media sites by 11 a.m. The number of people is subject to change based on government guidelines and room capacity limits. Although indoor gatherings are now allowing 100 people, our Sanctuary can only hold around 75 people when adhering to the 6-ft. of social distancing.
2. Service Guidelines
   1. Enter through Sanctuary doors and an usher will seat you. Everyone sitting together (family units) must arrive together. Wait outside the church until your whole group is present and ready to enter.
   2. At the end of the service, ushers will dismiss those sitting on the right side to exit through the Prayer Garden doors and those on the left side to exit through the Welcome Center doors.
   3. Masks should be worn at all times and households will be spaced 6-ft. apart from one another.
   4. Bulletins will not be handed out.
   5. No physical contact with worshipers (ex. Passing of the Peace).
   6. No lighting of prayer candles.
   7. No Children’s Time with Jay
   8. No Communion
   9. No receiving line follow the worship service.
   10. Per CDC guidelines, loud singing can increase the risk for COVID spread. For the safety of your neighbors in the congregation, we invite you to sing quietly if you choose to sing. Again, masks must be worn at all times.
   11. No food or drink inside the facility.
   12. No offering will be collected during the service. As you leave there will be a basket or box in which to place your offering.
   13. No nursery. (see below)
3. Other Safety Measures
   1. Sanctuary and Narthex doors will be propped open or held open by an usher.
   2. To assist with air circulation, some windows will be opened and some fans will be running.
   3. Hand sanitizing stations and extra masks will be located at the entrances.
   4. The Welcome Center bathrooms will be available for use. The bathrooms are cleaned on Friday prior to the service. Cleaning supplies will be available at the bathroom entrance for individuals to use at their discretion.
4. Attending Worship
   1. Do not come to church if you’ve been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or if you are experiencing fever, chills, shortness of breath, new cough, or new loss of taste and smell
   2. Two Fridays prior to the designated service date a sign-up form will go live for individuals and families to sign up through Tuesday (with the option to call in as well). Each week’s sign-up will have a note that preference will be given to a certain portion of the alphabet by last name. If sign-ups for A-D don’t fill up the space capacity, the openings will move to the next set of letters. For example, if preference is given to L-R, the leftover spots will be filled from S-Z. If sign-ups for A-D are over capacity, preference will be given using the earliest sign-up times. The names not selected will move to the top of the list for preference next time their alphabetical sign-up comes around. For example, if Smith, Taylor, and Williams requested spots and there was only room for Smith, then Taylor and Williams would be placed on the priority list for the next S-Z round. If the same three requested spots again in the next round, the spots would first be filled by Taylor and Williams.
   3. The sign-up form will include an option to fill out your availability for the entire month (at the first Sunday of every month) or for the week. Persons signing up need to be sure they can attend and should not submit a form if it is only a possibility.
   4. Reservations will be confirmed on Wednesday prior to the designated service date.
   5. **It is important that anyone interested, regardless of last name, request a spot whenever they are able to attend a Sunday. This will help gauge interest in attending in-person so that we can adapt accordingly.**
   6. Volunteers are special! Those helping with scripture reading, ushering, or music will always get preference. Contact Ashley Yohman at [ashley.yohman@pgumc.org](mailto:ashley.yohman@pgumc.org) to get involved and help this first phase go smoothly!
   7. NOTE: May 23 is reserved for Confirmands and their families. There will be no sign-up.
5. Miscellaneous
   1. We are looking forward to having children in worship with their families. As there will not be a nursery available, we are excited to see and hear little ones worshipping with us! Individual use children’s worship activities will be available upon request. There will also be a selection of books and toys available in the Welcome Center where parents may take their children and continue to watch the service on the TV monitor.
   2. We are leaving it up to each Sunday school class and leader whether or not they want to adjust their meeting time if it conflicts with 10 a.m. worship. This is only a temporary time slot for worship.

Phase II  
On or before Sunday, July 11

1. An additional service will be added and service times will change to 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. The 11:00 a.m. service will be live-streamed and posted to social media after recording is done. Service guidelines will be re-evaluated based on the latest guidelines and recommendations.
2. Children’s Church will be available for both services for ages 3-1st grade. Children will gather immediately before the Gospel lesson and remain together until the end of the service. They can be picked up in the courtyard (weather permitting).
   1. More volunteer opportunities! In addition to ushers and liturgists, we will also need Children’s Church volunteers. They must be 6th grade and older.

Phase III  
Beginning in August

1. Sunday school classes for children and youth will be offered in-person again. Help this get started sooner rather than later by volunteering to teach weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, or as a substitute! We value our children’s Christian education as well as our volunteers.
2. Nursery will be provided again.

On or before Sunday, September 12

1. All three services will return. Service guidelines will be re-evaluated based on the latest guidelines and recommendations.
2. Sponsored groups may meet indoors again.

Special Notes:

* We acknowledge that our worship needs are all different right now and continue to work to fulfill those needs with Jesus Christ’s teachings and example in mind.
* Among other things, the phases ensure that we have our “ducks in a row” while creating the safest and most caring environment.
* We appreciate your patience and encouragement as we work together to overcome the imperfections of this plan.