**Second Avenue United Methodist Church Reopening Statement**

**What We Have Considered:**

Our #1 concern is our PEOPLE!  With over 70% of our members over 70 years old and a number of members with underlying health conditions, we must take safety precautions very seriously.  As of now, June 22, 2020 we do not have all the supplies needed to worship inside.  We will inform you when we are ready to resume in person worship inside our building!

**As Soon As All the Supplies Come In:**

Know that the risk of infection once people are in a closed space increases greatly. I strongly encourage members over 70 years old and anyone with underlying health conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart conditions, etc. to attend **the drive in service which will be held simultaneously outside when we resume in-person worship**.

We will strictly enforce these precautions under the supervision of our trustees inside:

* Be seated by the direction of our ushers.
* Maintain 6 feet of social distancing per family unit, not just once people are inside, but from the time they leave their cars, as they enter the worship space, and as they exit the space and return to their vehicles.
* Have no physical contact (no hugging, no shaking hands, etc.).
* Wear face masks (bring your masks but we will have extras handy.).
* Be vigilant about sanitizing hands.
* No pew Hymnals, Bibles, pens, etc.; They will be removed from pews.
* Have one-way foot traffic, entering through the front red doors and exit through designated exits.
* Have face shields/plexiglass around the pulpit, lectern, and choir area.
* No choir until it is safe.  We will have special music.
* Limit restrooms to one family unit at a time.
* We strongly encourage families with young children or people under 39 to gather in the Fellowship Hall.  The service will be televised on the screen.  Please know that there will be no nursery provided.  You are welcome to bring food, toys, strollers, etc. for your children.
* Offerings will be collected in a wooden box in the narthex and in the Fellowship Hall.

*Note that this "new normal" will continue until it is deemed safe to resume regular worship practices. We will continue to offer online worship at* **2aveumc.org** *and audio worship at 706-786-6406.*

***Please note:  Clergy have been requested to be tested every two weeks.  Rev. Millie was tested last week and she is negative.***