



## Re-Entering Well Task Force Update

### Task Force Purpose

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that the church remains prayerful and steadfast amid the uncertainty of the times. Following the directive of Bishop Easterling, St. Mark has closed the building for indoor activities and worship. For a time, driven by our love for our neighbor, we have not assembled in person to worship to slow the spread of the virus and to protect the vulnerable.

As mandated by the United Methodist Conference, churches were to *“create a Task Force to discern how to best re-enter the building while putting a priority on life amid the coronavirus pandemic.”* In anticipation of a return to in-person gatherings, a Re-Entering Well Task Force was created to plan the phased-in reopening of St. Mark once it is safe to do so as well as ensure our congregation and community continue to feel the church’s seamless presence. Much prayer and discussion are taking place weekly to ensure the safe return to our corporate worship.

### Though Our Doors Are Closed

Though our doors are closed, we continue efforts to keep our ministries and services to the community vibrant.

Your input is welcomed and encouraged. Please complete the “Contact Us” form at: <https://stmarkumchanover.org/form/contact-us> for more information, and/or to express comments or concerns. You may also contact us via email @ [stmark21076@aol.com](mailto:stmark21076@aol.com), ATTN: Re-Entering Well.

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#### Special points of interest

- Task Force Purpose
- Weekly Opportunities
- Voter Important Dates
- Sunday Worship
- Upcoming Activities

## Task Force Charge

Using the Key Questions (listed to the right), as Guidelines, the Task Force is charged with, among other things to:

- Consider the percentage of congregants who are vulnerable to the virus and establish safety procedures and policies necessary to create a safe space for people to worship
- Review the configuration of the physical space including parking lots, narthex, sanctuary, bathrooms, resource/conference rooms, nursery and educational building and determining what actions are necessary to meet health guidelines.
- Ensure an adequate supply of cleaning and sanitization products, hand sanitizers, and masks to meet CDC guideline to mitigate risk.

## Task Force Decisions/Actions/Progress to Date Include:

- Inclusion of Communion in virtual services and the distribution of individually wrapped Communion sets for use during those services
- Conducting socially distanced outdoor services with contact tracing
- Removal of hymnals and bibles from the sanctuary for cleaning and storage
- Stocking adequate supply of hand sanitizer, masks and cleaning supplies
- Communicating activities via E-Blast, Church website and social media
- Continued community support via existing food distribution programs: LOH Food Center, SHARE, and Pantry On The Go
- Working on upgrades to our AV System to enhance current broadcasting capabilities as well as future in-house and broadcasting services

***NOTE: Safe Re-Entering under current guidelines will not likely be accomplished before January 2021***

### Task Force Key Questions

**WHAT?** Consider the availability of required supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer, and how you will adhere to all CDC and local health guidelines to mitigate risk.

**WHO?** Consider the percentage of congregants who are vulnerable to the virus, and take into account the high degree of discipline that will be necessary in order for the pastor and congregation to be vigilant about adhering to guidelines and helping others do the same.

**WHERE?** Consider the size and configuration of your space(s) including parking lots, foyers, sanctuary, bathrooms, classrooms, etc. and what that means in terms of meeting health guidelines.



Your offering helps continue our current programs as well as with the upgrades needed to Re-Enter

## Your Financial Support is Still Needed

To make giving easier our Finance Team has introduced **Pushpay** which offers a variety of ways to donate, including mobile and online. Giving via Pushpay:

- Open your internet browser, and go to [stmarkumchanover.org/give](http://stmarkumchanover.org/give), then click Give Online to access the online giving page
- Open your internet browser, and go to [Pushpay.com/pay/Stmarkumchanover](http://Pushpay.com/pay/Stmarkumchanover) to access the online giving page.
- Text **stmarkumc** to “77977” and follow the prompts to give through your **smartphone**
- Click on **Give** at the bottom of the St. Mark My Church App on your smartphone. You must do a one-time install of the App by:

- ◇ Downloading and installing My Church by Pushpay from Apple or Google Play Store
- ◇ Enter stmarkumc app when prompted for church keyword, click Continue, and then click Connect
- ◇ Next time you open My Church, you will be using the St. Mark My Church App

Mailing your donation is still an option. Mail to:

St. Mark UMC  
PO Box 378  
c/o Finance  
Hanover, MD 21076

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 4:6, 7 (NRSV)

### Maryland 2020 General Election Schedule

Last day to register to vote (by mail/online)	Oct 13
Last day to request a ballot	Oct 20
Early voting begins (7am—8pm)	Oct 26
Early voting ends (7am—8pm)	Nov 2
Election Day (7am—8pm)	Nov 3

Go to: <https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/index.html> for additional information

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

## Weekly Opportunities to Remember

- **Sunday Prayer Conference Call**—from 9:00-9:45am. Dial in #: 1-717-275-8940, Access Code: 1613078. Please mute phone once you’ve joined the call
- **Sunday Church School**—starts at 8:30am. Dial in #: 978-990-5000. Access Code 948224
- **Participation in Sunday’s Facebook Live Worship**—contact our Minister of Music (Regi McClurkin) at (410) 379-9050 to advise of your availability
- **Monday Night Women’s Bible Study**—starts at 6:30pm. Dial in #: 1-717-275-8940. Access Code: 9493778
- **Tuesday Evening Bible Study**—starts at 6:45pm. Dial in #: 339-207-7434. No Access Code needed (see Friday E-Blast for additional information or link)
- **Tuesday Men’s Bible Study**—starts at 6:30pm. Dial in #: 717-275-8940. Access Code: 608 7200
- **Food Truck Fridays**—4:00-7:00pm (2020 season ends October 30)

## Sunday Worship

### **Teleconference Worship**

**Service:** 10:15am with  
Min. Michael R. Simms, Sr.,  
Dial: 425-436-6324.  
Access Code: 804340  
Mute your phone once  
you've joined the call. If  
you are unable to get in  
after a few attempts, please  
Text CALL ME to 425-436-  
6324 and you will be given a  
direct line to the call.

### **Facebook Live Worship**

**Service:** 10:00am with  
Pastor Watson  
To access this worship ex-  
perience, Go to the St. Mark  
Live page: [Click here](#)  
To access the video of the  
service after it is Complet-  
ed, [Click here](#)

## Upcoming Activities

### October

- Sun, Oct 11, 10:00am — Worship Service via Facebook Live
- Thurs, Oct 15, 10:00am-12:00noon — Pantry On The Go
- Fri, Oct 16, 4:00-7:00pm — Food Truck Friday
- Sat, Oct 24, 10:00am — SHARE Distribution
- Sat, Oct 24, 11:00am — UMM Sponsored Community Day
  - ◊ Chicken & Fish Fry
  - ◊ Clothing Drive
- Sun, Oct 25, 10:00am — Men's Day Worship Service via Facebook Live
- Sat, Oct 31, 8:00-10:00am — LOH Food Center Distribution
- Sat, Oct 31, 9:00-11:00am — UMM Sponsored SHRED-IT Truck
- Sat, Oct 31, 10:00am-12:00noon — Distribution of Communion Elements (multi-month distribution)

### November

- Sun, Nov 1, — Communion Service via Facebook Live & Tele Worship
- Sun, Nov 8, — Veteran's Day Service via Facebook Live & Tele Worship
- Sat, Nov 21, 10:00am — SHARE Distribution
- Sat, Nov 21, 10:00am-12:00noon — Joint LOH Food Center/Pantry On the Go Distribution
- Thurs, Nov 28, 10:00am — Thanksgiving Service via Facebook Live

## St. Mark United Methodist Church

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Rev. Herbert W. Watson, Jr., Pastor

#Love Matters

**Need Prayer? Submit your prayer requests to [StMarkPrayer@aol.com](mailto:StMarkPrayer@aol.com)**