

Below is a document that is a continuous work-in-progress. Over the past few months, committee chairs at Ivy and I have engaged in discussions on how to best implement practices at our church that keep us safe while still allowing us to have time for worship, fellowship, and more in the pandemic. This document best explains how we hope to continue the work of the church in phases of re-entry. Our document is quite similar to the document created by the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, yet it is more specific for our community with our resources in mind. Please know that these recommendations may change and will be adapted as time moves on. Additionally, these phases may not progress as seamlessly as we would hope. It may be that in some months we choose to exist as a church in Yellow Phase 2 and then return to Yellow Phase 1 or Red Phase based on restrictions and guidelines created by Bishop Laurie Haller, our government, or on information provided to us concerning the spread of COVID-19. Still on August 1, we continue to be in Yellow Phase 1. Whatever we decide and enact concerning our safety as a church, we will strive to do it in love and in prayer.

Thank you for your understanding and your patience. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via email: [pastordanim@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanim@gmail.com).

*-Pastor Dani Musselman*

**Phased Reopening for Centennial UMC at Ivy**  
*Please see below for more in-depth guidelines & regulations*

<b>Red Phase</b>	<b>Yellow Phase 1</b>	<b>Yellow Phase 2</b>	<b>Yellow Phase 3</b>	<b>Green Phase</b>
Stay home.	Outdoor gatherings only. No indoor in-person gatherings (life rituals not included)	Outdoor gatherings still encouraged. Minimal indoor gatherings	Less restrictions on indoor gatherings and meetings	Yay! All gatherings welcome
Online worship only.	Worship outdoors allowed. Masks required. Online worship continues.	Begin in-person indoor worship. Maybe 2 services offered. Online worship continues	Return to 1 in-person indoor worship service. Online worship continues.	All are encouraged to join us for indoor worship! Online worship continues!
No hospitality time offered.	No hospitality time following services.	No hospitality time following services.	Coffee time for hospitality time. No sharing of food.	Hospitality time with food and drink returns!
No in-person meetings or gatherings.	No in-person indoor meetings.	One indoor meeting/gathering per day. Online or outside gatherings encouraged.	Indoor gatherings welcome with restrictions.	Return to regular indoor functions with less restrictions



## **Detailed Phasing Plan for Centennial UMC at Ivy**

*Please note that all regulations & recommendations may change & will be re-evaluated as time moves forward. This plan has been created with the intentions laid out by the Iowa Annual Conference of hoping to re-open in phases as to*

*“do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.”*

### **Red Phase:**

- We will not host any in-person indoor or outdoor gatherings or worship services
- Online worship only
- Exception: life services (weddings or funerals) will be limited to no more than 10 people and will be recommended to take place outdoors when possible
- We will encourage continued giving online & via mail
- Will require all meetings to remain online or over the phone
- Communion will be celebrated online during live services

### **Yellow Phase 1:**

- If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services
- We recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety
- We will host one or two outdoor gatherings per month
- Committees and leaders will be required to plan & communicate ahead of meeting/event times how to implement regulations and restrictions (i.e. physical distancing, masks, etc.)
- Can begin to offer outdoor services with people staying in their car
- No in-person indoor gatherings or worship services
- Exception: life services (weddings or funerals) will be limited to no more than 20 people and will be recommended to take place outdoors when possible
- Recommend meetings to stay online

- Communion celebrated online or at outdoor worship service
- Masks required at all gatherings and will supply anyone with a mask if needed
- Physical distanced seating required at outdoor gatherings
- Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services
- Online worship remains as option for anyone

### **Yellow Phase 2:**

- If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services
- We recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety
- Return to offering minimal indoor gatherings
- Might offer 2 or more worship services per week (on the radio, indoor or outdoor worship, etc.)
- Exception: life services (weddings or funerals) will be limited to no more than 50 people
- Outdoor gatherings still encouraged over indoor
- One indoor meeting/gathering per day
- Committees and leaders will be required to plan & communicate ahead of meeting/event times how to implement regulations and restrictions (i.e. physical distancing, masks, etc.)
- Recommend meetings to stay online
- Communion celebrated at outdoor worship service or will be offered at end of indoor service as people leave building
- Masks required at all gatherings and will supply anyone with a mask if needed
- Physical distanced seating required at all gatherings. Families may sit together.
- Committee leaders asked to clean any surfaces touched following an indoor meeting
- No meals or fellowship time indoors
- No congregational singing permitted
- Minimal to no liturgical response in services (Call to Worship, Lord's Prayer, etc.)

- **Children's time in front of sanctuary will not be permitted. Will have children's bags made for a child's use during worship. Will continue to connect with families online with bedtime stories, etc.**
- **Shaking hands will not be permitted by greeters and will be recommended for all to remain physically distanced**
- **Hymnals will not be used by congregation during worship**
- **Recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety**
- **Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services**
- **Online worship remains as option for anyone**

### **Yellow Phase 3:**

- **If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services**
- **We recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety**
- **Will continue to offer indoor gatherings with safety restrictions**
- **Will return to offering 1 indoor in-person worship service**
- **Life services will abide by all worship service restrictions**
- **Indoor gatherings and meetings welcome with physical distancing recommended**
- **Committees and leaders will be required to plan & communicate ahead of meeting/event times how to require physical distancing, masks, etc.**
- **Communion celebrated in-person with careful distancing guidelines (disposable cups, individual wafers, masks & gloves for servers, etc.)**
- **Masks recommended at gatherings and will supply anyone with a mask if needed**
- **Physical distanced seating recommended at all gatherings. Families may sit together.**
- **Committee leaders asked to clean any surfaces touched following an indoor meeting**
- **Coffee time and food (with limitations) may return for hospitality time. Coffee will need to be served (not self-served) and food will either need to be served or prepacked into individual packages to prevent the use of communal serving utensils**
- **Minimal congregational singing**

- **Minimal liturgical response in services (Call to Worship, Lord's Prayer, etc.**
- **Children's time in front of sanctuary is not recommended. Will have children's bags made for a child's use during worship. Will continue to connect with families online with bedtime stories, etc.**
- **Shaking of hands will not be recommended by greeters or any in-person worshipper**
- **Will re-evaluate use of hymnals for in-person worship**
- **Recommend all people carefully evaluate attending any gathering for personal & communal safety**
- **Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services**
- **Online worship remains as option for anyone**

### **Green Phase:**

- **If you do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, we ask that you please do not attend any in-person gatherings or services**
- **All gatherings welcome indoors & outdoors**
- **All are encouraged to join us for indoor worship and all gatherings**
- **Hospitality time with food and drink welcome and encouraged**
- **Ask that all worshippers and attenders respect others desire to stay physically distanced**
- **Will continuously evaluate safety restrictions for worship and all gatherings as needed**
- **Will encourage continued giving online & via mail. Will include in-person offering at worship services**
- **Online worship remains as option for anyone**
- **Will hope to engage in worship that does not take for granted the ways in which we have had to change the ways we gather and worship together in the pandemic. And we hope to continue learning and evolving as time goes on**