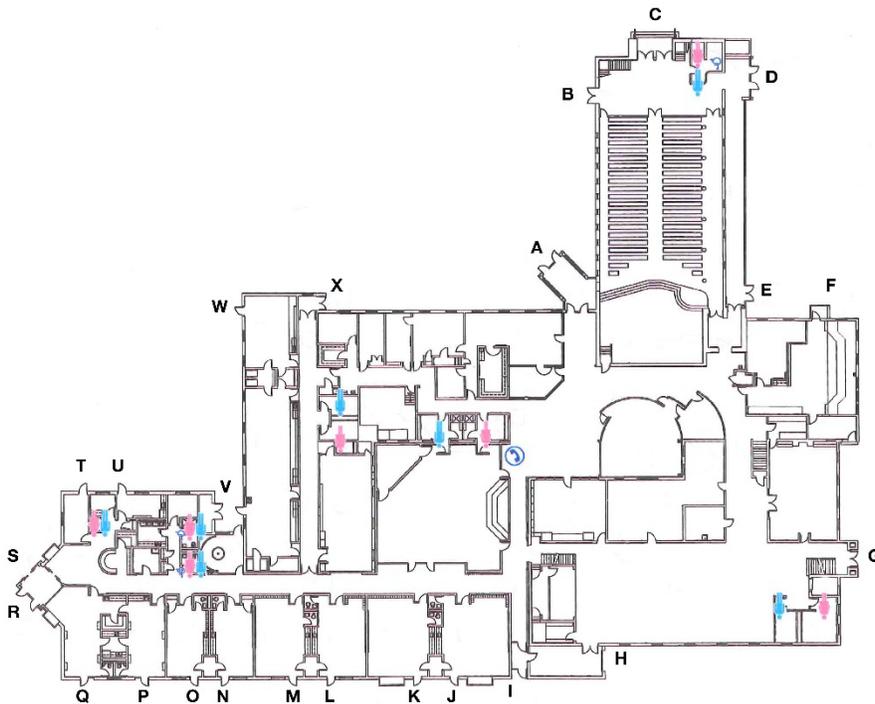


## Safety / Security Upgrade

Methodist Temple desires to be a safe space for people to gather for worship, fellowship and community-building. However, we currently live in a world where evil seems to erupt at a moment's notice – and we are not immune to this reality even when we gather to worship. Because houses of worship are open to the public, welcoming and inviting, criminals view churches as an easy target. We should be cautious, though God says we should not be fearful or anxious. Given recent events in Parkland, FL and Sutherland Springs, TX, the need for increased security is higher than ever before.

To that end, at January's meeting, the Trustees approved an upgrade plan to our security/alarm system. This upgrade includes cameras at strategic places throughout the building; panic buttons at major entrances; an intercom system at the Church Office entrance; and changed locks around the exterior of the building. These upgrades will require a bit of adjustment on our part (staff and congregation, alike), as it will change the ways we gain access to the building. As we move towards making our building a safe place for members, visitors, staff and community, everyone's patience and cooperation is both welcomed and appreciated!

Here are details regarding the changes: *(see map for identification of exterior doors)*



- In a few weeks, entrances B, C, D, F, H, J – R and T – X will be re-keyed. If you currently have a key that unlocks any of these entrances, it will no longer work. Should you need access to any of these points on a regular basis, please see the Church Office.
- Beginning Monday (March 26), entrances A, E, G, I & S will work with a key fob. If you currently have a key that unlocks any of these entrances, it will no longer work. Should you need access to any of these points on a regular basis (and you have not been given a fob), please see the Church Office.
- Gaining access to the building:
  - Sunday mornings: entrances A, B, D, E & G will be open at 7:30 AM. At 8:45, during the service, only the doors to the airlock (entrance A) and Narthex (B & D) will be open.

At 9:30, entrances A, B, D, E & G will again be open until 11:15. At that time, again, only the doors to the airlock & Narthex will be open.

- Monday through Friday during Church Office hours: only one door will be open / accessible – the exterior door to the airlock by the Office (A). Once you enter the airlock, you will use the audio/video intercom (monitored by our Office staff) to identify yourself and the staff will buzz you in.
- Special events during the day throughout the week (Ladies Bible Study, SAMs Exercise, SAMs Lunch, UMW events, special daytime services): We will work with your groups to determine which entrance is most feasible to have unlocked.
- Special events on Saturday & Sundays: We will work with your group to determine which entrance is most feasible to have unlocked.

Churches and places of worship should be a safe, secure place for people to gather – to worship, learn, play and bond as a community. We pray that Methodist Temple is that sort of space!