

First United Methodist Church Worship Guidelines for Returning to In-person Worship

Our highest priority is the health, safety and well-being of our people, with particular concern for the most vulnerable. It is also our collective responsibility as Christians to be good neighbors in our community.

Ushers, health team members and staff all share responsibility for the safety and well-being of the congregation. Our goal is to provide a balance between the need to provide a environment of welcome and openness with having practices in place that mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We ask you to read over the information below as we return to in-person worship on September 13, 2020.

Worship Opportunities:

- 8:15 AM in-person worship only the Sanctuary (No Nursery available)
- 10:30 AM in-person worship the Sanctuary and available live stream virtual worship via Youtube, Facebook, and our website. (Nursery/Childcare provided for infants – 4K. Please see the attachment for check-in procedures and guidelines)
- We encourage you to register for either worship service (8:15 or 10:30) by calling the church office at 843-488-4251 or clicking on the following links by Friday, September 11. Pre-registration will assist us in planning for Sunday.

What to Expect on Sunday Morning:

- **Please enter/exit through Narthex entrance doors only.** All other entrances will be closed. Handicap Parking will be available along Fifth Avenue in front of the church.
- We ask **everyone to wear a mask.** We will have masks available.
- Ushers/Health Team members will assist with seating. Every other pew has been marked off as unavailable for seating.
- Family members sit together.
- No more than 4 persons per pew except for families.
- Cough/Sneeze into your sleeve.
- Place your contribution envelope and attendance slip in the offering plate provided as you enter or exit the church. The ushers will not “take up the collection” during worship.
- Follow the instructions of the ushers/hospitality team members.

- **Avoid gathering in the sanctuary**, Narthex or near the doors of the church prior to and following Worship
- **NO hugging and handshakes**, find alternative ways of greeting (elbow bump, bow).
- Please use restrooms located in the Narthex or near the Choir Room.

General Guidelines:

- Sunday Schools will not meet inside but may meet outside. No food or beverages may be prepared on site.
- Children's Sunday School (4K – 5th grade) will be held in the Courtyard beginning at 9:30 AM. Please pick your child(ren) up **no later than 10:10 AM**.
- Youth Sunday School (6th – 12th grade) will be held on the outdoor basketball court at the FLC beginning at 9:30 AM – 10:10 AM.
- Journey Seekers Sunday School will meet in the parking lot across from the FLC on Fifth Avenue.
- Online Sunday School will go live at 9:30 via Facebook.
- During the Sunday School hour, restrooms will be open in the Education Bldg. for children and in the FLC for adults.
- All water fountains are unavailable.

The following are encouraged to stay at home:

- The sick.
- The elderly (those 85 or older).
- People with underlying medical conditions.
- Family members who live with elderly people or those who are at risk.
- People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions.
- People who have upper respiratory or flu like symptoms.
- People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu like symptoms.
- People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19.
- People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or awaiting test results.

Blessing of the Backpacks:

This year our annual Blessing of the Backpacks will be held in the Courtyard on Sunday, September 13 from 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM. Students, teachers, and school personnel are invited to come forward individually under the tent in the Courtyard for a blessing and bookbag tag. Kona Ice will provide free treats for everyone!

Thank You:

We have missed you! We look forward to eagerly welcoming you home to worship together. We know things may look different, but together as a community of disciples we will gather and live into a new normal!