



First United Methodist Church

Returning to In-person Worship Plan (Indoors)

What is your inventory of essential supplies?

We have appropriate cleaning products for use in sanctuary and surrounding areas, masks and gloves, hand sanitizer stations and pump bottles, soap, toilet paper, tissues, and trash cans on hand. Bibles, hymnals, attendance pads, and pew cushions have been removed from the sanctuary. **All persons will be required to wear a face covering, and the church will provide face coverings for those who do not have them.**

Identify clearly named and trained “Cleaning Teams.”

All seating, bathrooms, doorknobs, rails, and other high touch areas will be cleaned prior to use and after each service by our custodial staff. Custodial staff has been deep cleaning the entire building while the building has been closed. All areas have been checked for mold and ventilation systems have been checked and air filters changed. And the insurance company has been consulted for guidance.

Determine appropriate seating capacity and clearly identified paths of entry/exit.

The sanctuary can hold 75-80 people if every other pew is utilized and groups/individuals are spaced 6 feet apart. Reservations will be strongly recommended for worship and those who have not made reservations will be asked to leave if the sanctuary is at appropriate capacity.

Reservation lists will also be used for taking attendance. Paths of entry/exit will begin in parking areas, with signs directing people to park in certain lots, and those who need to use the elevator in a different lot. Greeters and members of the welcome team will provide instructions for wearing face coverings and distributes faces coverings as needed, direct worshippers in and out of the building, guide worshippers to appropriately distanced seating, and monitor doors and hallways. Those who do not cooperate with restrictions and guidelines will be asked to leave.

Create/Purchase Signage

Signs will be printed in-house from the CDC and other reliable sources explaining how to stop the spread of Covid-19 and protective measures, including the wearing of masks and social distancing. We will also develop directional signs for entering, exiting, and moving through the facilities in such a way to provide social distancing. We will also create signs communicating restrictions and guidelines for use throughout the building.

Determine how you would handle a variety of specific circumstances:

We are developing an updated building use agreement. We have been and will continue to communicate with the congregation through emails, Facebook, YouTube, website, mailings, and phone calls/texts regarding guidelines, contact tracing, and other important information.

We conducted a survey and found that more than 73% of respondents prefer worshipping at home rather than returning to in-person worship with restrictions. We are continuing our food pantry (with strict precautions) to assist our community and congregation.

Develop a plan for collection and counting of the offering:

We are building and installing collection boxes with hands-free removal of contents. Volunteers will use gloves and masks to retrieve the contents on the collection boxes and to count the offering. We are continuing with mail-in offerings and electronic giving.