

Reopening Guidelines for Worship

In seeking to ensure that we at First Congregational Church are providing the safest possible worship setting for our congregation and visitors the Board has put in place the following guidelines. Our guidelines have been set in place to help us protect one another and especially our most vulnerable members. This does not ensure that a person attending worship will not contract Covid19 but will help to lessen the possibility.

1. Everyone attending worship will be required to wear a mask to help lessen the spread of the virus. We know that singing can increase the possibility of spreading the virus so for us to enjoy the music and sing our hymns we will have to do so wearing our masks.
2. When a person enters the building, we are asking that you move to the Sanctuary and not linger in the hallways.
3. As you approach the Narthex there will be a table that will have hand sanitizer, the bulletins, and on communion Sunday individual communion elements. We need everyone to sanitize their hands pick up a bulletin, and on the first Sunday individual communion elements.
4. There will be two podiums set up in the Narthex one will contain a tablet where you can list and prayer concerns and another for you to register your attendance. This will eliminate the need to pass registration pads and prayer concerns.
5. For the offering there will be two stations set up with offering plates where you are welcome to deposit your offering as you enter or as you leave the service. This eliminates the need to pass the offering plates.
6. To maintain a safe distance for everyone we will mark off every other pew so that there will be an empty pew in front of you and behind you. We also ask that you maintain distance between those sitting on the pew with you. Families can sit together.
7. The hymnals and Bibles will be removed for the pew and all songs, music, and lyrics, as well as Bible readings will be inserted in the bulletin so that there will no handling of hymnals and Bibles.
8. Those on the chancel will not be wearing a mask but will maintain safe distancing while leading the service. when the worship team is leaving the chancel, they will put their mask back on.
9. The ushers will direct each pew when to leave so that we do not have a traffic jam in Sanctuary.
10. As we are entering or leaving the Sanctuary, we request that you do not shake hands or make any physical contact.
11. There will be no coffee hour until it is safe for us to gather without threat of infection.

We know that this seems impersonal, but we are doing all that we can to ensure that we can meet safely for worship.