



FIRST CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST FAMILY

Reopening Guidelines

(Revised 9-1-2021)

These guidelines depict our best effort to make the experience of gathering in person safe and meaningful for all. We will evaluate whether to continue these options on a regular basis, depending on how well we follow these guidelines and on how well the community is doing with the virus.

Note: These guidelines apply to both locations - downtown and west campus. Details specific to one location are indicated by DT for downtown and WC for west campus.

General

- Masks and distancing are strongly recommended for all persons, vaccinated and non-vaccinated, while in our buildings.
Note: Some ministries may require masks for their events.
- Masks are required in the main church office.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available in our buildings.

Worship

THINGS WILL LOOK AND FEEL DIFFERENT

- At WC and DT LIFE services, chairs will be arranged to maintain appropriate distancing between groups/households; cushioned chairs will be available. At DT traditional service, persons are encouraged to maintain appropriate distancing from other groups/households in the pews.
- There will be no coffee service, food, or water fountains available.
- Congregational singing may occur, and masks are strongly recommended for this activity.
- Sacraments of communion and baptism may occur with proper safety protocols.
- Offering plates will not yet be passed; please place your offering in the baskets (or send to church office, use automatic deposit, give through website or app, or text GIVE to 913-586-2347).
- The nursery may open with proper safety protocols; please check with church office for availability.
- Sunday school classes are welcome to meet in person according to the small group guidelines; you must schedule your group through the church office.
- One entrance will be open at each location: main door from parking lot at WC and Vermont Street entrance at DT.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE

- Remember to bring your key card(s). If you have not received or have misplaced your key card, contact the church office (office@fumclawrence.org or 785-841-7500). *Note: This system of registration reduces staff workload and paper use.*
- If you have a cough, fever, or other symptoms, or if you have been around someone who is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and continue to worship online.



WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON CAMPUS

- Follow directions of greeters, ushers, attendants, and signage.
- Greeters will scan your key card(s) at designated entry stations. First Church friends or first-time guests without a key card will need to provide check-in information at the station.

HEARING ASSISTANCE (DT Sanctuary)

- A hearing loop is now available in the DT sanctuary for those who have hearing aids with a T-coil setting.
 - Before arriving, please check with your provider to make sure that the T-coil portion of your device is activated and that you know how to turn it on and off.
 - After arriving, turn on your device to experience everything that goes through the sound system directly sent to your hearing aid.
- Headsets that are tuned directly into the sound system are available for those who experience hearing loss but do not have hearing aids; check with a greeter or usher for these devices.

Small Groups

- Groups must register and schedule through the main church office.
 - ZOOM option for connecting with others not coming to building may be possible with arrangement through the church office; groups must provide their own device (e.g., laptop, tablet).
- All rooms will be limited to 50% capacity.
- Sport groups will be allowed if they can adhere to the mask and distancing guidelines. No contact sports!
- If anyone in a group is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, that person should not attend.
- Groups must notify the church office if someone in their group using the building tests positive for COVID.
- Self-serve coffee, water pitchers, and open food items are allowed.

Note: All small groups, including Sunday school classes, will prepare their own coffee.

Note: The serving of food is limited to small groups (30 persons or fewer) with proper distancing (due to the inability to wear masks while eating).

