



FIRST CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST FAMILY

Reopening Guidelines

(Revised 10-1-2021)

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 guidelines (based on City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation):
 - Masks are required for all involved (older than two years) while on the church premises.
 - When not involved in the action, participants will maintain 6' distance.
 - For sports with children under 12, the temperature of each participant will be taken upon entering the building, and an attendance record of participants and temperature will be kept and filled with the church office (due to the lack of vaccine for these children at this time).
- 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 only with proper distancing and other precautions due to the need to remove masks.

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

Food Guidelines

- Seating is limited to 40 persons/13 round tables in Brady Hall and 100 persons/34 round tables in Great Room.
- Each table should contain persons from the same household; if persons are not of the same household, then only two persons per table are allowed; adjust seating limits accordingly.
- Masks are strongly recommended when not eating; servers shall wear masks.
- Tables shall be set at least 6' feet apart.
- Self-serve food and beverage stations are allowed only if persons are masked and if hand sanitizer is available at the beginning and end of the line.

Note: Some groups may require additional restrictions.

