



## We Are REGATHERING!

We have not been able to physically meet at the church building for over two months. The good news is that the church has still been meeting in other ways. Our FCoC family has been meeting in living rooms, bedrooms, patios and dining rooms. We have been joined online with Christians from many other states and from around the world. Jesus' Church is alive and well.

Now, for the news you've been waiting for... we, as a church family are coming back for corporate worship on **June 7, 2020**.

The leadership of FCoC has prayerfully considered many options that would allow us the opportunity to meet together again as a church family while providing a safe environment for everyone.

We recognize that our congregation largely consists of those in the age bracket that the CDC considers to be the most vulnerable to the Coronavirus. In addition, there are others with pre-existing health conditions which makes them more vulnerable.

The Elders and Minister have put together a guideline regarding what this initial phase in the life of our church family looks like. As the situation progresses, we will make appropriate changes. We will keep the congregation updated as needed.

**Please read the following carefully.**

### **Worship Service:**

In the initial phase of regathering, we are limiting our time together to Sunday Morning Worship only. Worship service will begin as normal at 9:30am.

### **Expectations of our Members:**

- We recommend high-risk individuals to stay at home.
- If you are feeling ill or are showing any signs or symptoms of sickness please stay home.
- You are asked to wear a face mask for the sake of everyone's safety. In this initial phase, we realize that this may be an inconvenience to some, but we know that we can still have a meaningful worship together and keep our most vulnerable members safe. A limited supply of masks will be available if you do not have one or forget to bring one.
- Obviously, there will be times when we will need to remove our masks. Our praise team will not be wearing masks while leading us in worship. Other individuals, such as those who will give our opening scripture and communion meditation will temporarily remove their mask. David will need to remove his mask while preaching. Everyone who partakes in the Lord's Supper will need to remove their mask during part of the service.

- The only entrance to the building will be through the northwest single door. You will be asked to exit the building through the northeast double doors.
- Please do not congregate in the foyer when arriving but proceed directly into the sanctuary and find a seat. Note that your favorite place to sit may not be available.
- Please only use the pews that are not marked as closed.
- Please sit together with those who live in your household.
- Please maintain a six-foot distance in the pews between your household and those who do not live with you.
- Please maintain a six-foot distance when entering or leaving the service.
- When the worship service is over, we will exit one row at a time to avoid congestion in the aisles and thus be able to maintain social distancing. Remain in your seat until released by a volunteer.
- Please exit the building immediately and out to the parking lot before stopping to have a conversation with someone so that others are free to leave and maintain social distancing.
- The upstairs restrooms will be open for use but please avoid entering when someone else is already in the restroom. When finished please wipe down any surfaces you have touched with the disinfectant wipes provided on the sink.
- The lower level of the church building and the south end of the upper level will be closed to public access until further notice.
- Due to the risk of contamination, water fountains will not be available in the beginning weeks of regathering. Please feel free to bring a bottle of water with you.
- We will not offer coffee in the early stages of re-opening. There is danger of contamination and we cannot assure social distancing.
- Please be flexible and patient as we do our best to keep you and others safe in the weeks to come. THANK YOU FOR BEING CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS.

### **How will I be greeted?**

The exterior doors will be opened for you by a volunteer greeter and the sanctuary doors will be left open until our service begins. All of our greeters who interact with guests will be wearing masks to ensure the safety of those around them. We encourage you to let our greeters open the doors for you. There will not be any handshakes or fist-bumps or hugs but know we all look forward to the day in the future that we can express our love for each other in these ways.

### **Will there be hand sanitizer available?**

Yes, we do have hand sanitizer pump bottles that will be available in the foyer. However, feel free to bring your own.

### **Will we get a bulletin?**

No, we are suspending paper bulletins at this time. Connect with us online and/or view the monitors at the front of the sanctuary for current announcements.

**Nursery and Children's Ministry:** In the initial phase of our regathering, nursery care and Children's Church will not be provided.

**What will communion look like?**

Prepackaged communion sets will either be handed to you by a volunteer as you enter the building or will be available on a table in the foyer for you to pick up before entering the sanctuary. You will open and use them to partake at the appropriate time in the service. Please drop the used communion kit in the waste cans provided when exiting the sanctuary.

**What will offering look like?**

An offering box will be available in the foyer before and after the worship service so that you may drop your tithes and offerings into the box. You may also continue to use our online giving option or mail your contributions to the church office. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness to God and being a good steward of His provision for you.

**Can I have physical contact with others?**

There will be no official handshaking, fist or elbow bumping, or other physical contact.

**Will the service online still be available?**

Yes, it is our intention to continue offering an online version of the service via our Church Online Platform or YouTube Channel for those who do not feel comfortable coming into the church building yet.

**Will the facilities be sanitized properly?**

Before Sunday each week, the sanctuary, foyer, and bathrooms will be cleaned thoroughly. This includes all pews, door handles, surface areas, etc.

As you can see, we are taking definite steps to mitigate the risks that are inherent in a large public gathering. However, it is impossible to eliminate all risks. Attendance at our worship service at this point in history requires a willingness to assume the risk. Elderly individuals and individuals with underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and others such conditions should feel free to remain at home and continue to worship through our online stream.

**Thank you** for reading through our guidelines and answers to common questions. There may be something we are overlooking and if so, please let the elders, minister, or the office know.

**Thank you** for your cooperation in helping us regather safely and with respect and consideration of everyone in the church family at FCoC.