

FCW In-Person Outdoor Worship Plan

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO A SAFE REOPENING

A basic message from the church, will be posted prominently on the church doors, website, and in email communications. Elements of the message will be reinforced directly by the pastors and other leaders, especially about wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing of at least 6 feet. Ultimately each person must determine whether he or she should attend. If they do come, they must wear a face mask, and must observe all the required precautions.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Coordinated and thoughtful planning is imperative for a church to reopen. Our pastors and other church leaders must be able to ensure that the church is prepared to meet the pandemic requirements for public worship.

1. Prior to reopening for worship, we will devise system to limit the number of people who can come to a given worship. Currently, according to CT state guidelines, churches can hold indoor worship at 25% or 100 people, whichever is less. FCW has a capacity of 400, so we potentially could have 100 people indoors. Gatherings of 150 for outdoor worship are permitted currently. At this time, we are planning to limit attendance to a small outdoor service of approximately 25 people. While the number of participants may change in the future, we will limit our gatherings to 25 people outdoors. If this changes, church leadership will inform the congregation.
2. We will use SignUp Genius to require people to tell us in advance that they plan to attend an outdoor service. Alternately, people can phone in to the church office or by email to request a space at the outdoor service. If capacity for the service is reached (i.e., if 25 people have requested to attend), the church will close the SignUp Genius for that week, and inform those who call/e-mail that the week's slots have been filled. If less than 25 people have signed up for a service, and if "walk-ins" wish to attend, deacons will need to get their contact information before seating them for contact tracing purposes. We will seat walk-ins only as long as there are fewer than 25 congregants in attendance.
3. If there is inclement weather, the Senior Pastor will determine if outdoor worship should be cancelled and will communicate any cancellations through email and social media.
4. Responsibility will be assigned for monitoring the number of attendees and enforcing masks and social distancing of at least 6 feet. Identifying the right way to carry out this necessary but potentially sensitive task is crucial and will be thought out ahead of time. This should not fall to the pastors, but rather it will be undertaken by good, trained volunteers. People in vulnerable categories should be excluded from volunteering, i.e. people over 60 or with any medical condition that compromises

their health, as well as people who have any qualms about endangering their health or who take care of a sick or homebound person. Deacons who are not in an at-risk category will be asked to lead but will not be the sole volunteers for these tasks.

5. To ensure the required social distancing of at least 6 feet, paint/chalk on the ground for outdoors, can be used to mark out places for people to sit or to stand at least 6 feet apart from one another. Members of a single household can be together – so the areas marked out should take that into account.
6. Strategies will be devised as to how people can circulate safely, enter and exit the outdoor worship space. We will make use of lines and arrows on the ground and/or prominent signs directing the flow of traffic.
7. We will not use paper bulletins or other paper items at all, instead relying on verbal cues to respond to prayers.
8. Collection boxes for any offerings/envelopes will be placed in prominent locations and no collection will be taken during worship.
9. Restrooms will not be open for outdoor worship offerings, and the building will not be open for volunteers.
10. Hand sanitizer will be available. Worship attendees may also bring their own. Just before beginning worship, the pastors and other leaders will sanitize their hands.
11. Any pastor, staff person, or volunteer who is sick in any way should not be at outdoor church.
12. FCW will use “Fellowship cups” for communion, single serve sanitary communion with juice and wafer. These will be put on a table for individuals to take as they arrive at the worship service. Because there will be trash associated with the use of these fellowship cups, all people partaking of communion are asked to pack their waste out at the end of the service to minimize the potential for handling contaminated waste.
13. No social gatherings either before or after worship, including the parking lot.
14. All members of the congregation need to wear masks, with one exception:
 - Children under the age of two should not wear masks.

Any person who has a health condition that makes wearing a mask impossible should not attend in-person worship.

15. Except while speaking for prayers and sermons, the Pastors and music director will wear masks and will maintain strict social distancing of at least 6 feet. Music director

or other soloist will maintain a distance of at least 25' from all individuals when singing.

16. Given that worship services will be very small, there will only be one scripture reader or other speaker, in addition to the pastors and a single musician/instrumentalist, socially distanced, with no congregational singing at all, since singing has been shown to spread the virus easily.