

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are back and we missed you!



These past few months have been challenging for everyone, and we hope that you are all safe and healthy amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We feel extremely fortunate to be able to welcome everyone back to worship. As the state of this public health emergency changes from day to day, we will remain focused on keeping everyone safe, healthy, and informed. Below is everything you need to know about coming back to worship June 21st!!

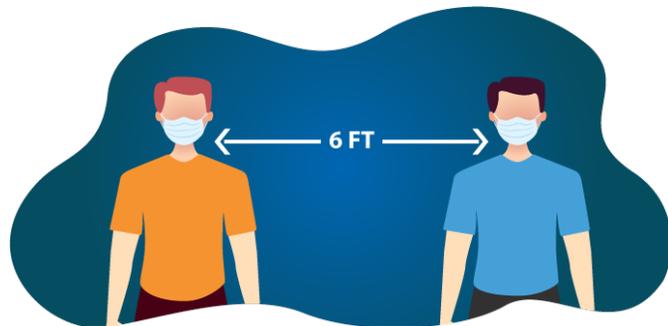


Please wear a mask

Worshippers will need to wear a mask at all times while moving around the church building. The trustees have voted and feel that this is the best way that we as a church can do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Don't have a mask? No problem! We will have masks available to anyone who comes to join in and does not have one!

Practice social distancing

Please remember to stay a safe distance (at least 6 feet) from non-family members. Let's all be as safe as possible.



**LOVE THY
NEIGHBOR**

SANITIZE THY HANDS



There will be signs and hand sanitizer at doors designated for entry as well as throughout the building. PLEASE make sure to sanitize your hands frequently.

Worship Info.

Because we are still in the early phases of re-opening, we will not offer many of the things we are used to having on Sunday mornings. There will be no childcare or Children's Sunday School. Adult groups are encouraged to meet if they can gather outside on the campus or maintain social distancing while they meet. Our trustees have met and feel this is the best practice to protect everyone as we move forward cautiously!

There will be no congregational singing for the next few weeks as we ease back into gathering. Hymnals have been removed as well as offering plates and any other commonly touched item in the worship areas. While we will not be able to have the choir or congregational singing, we will

have the opportunity to hear from some extremely talented individuals as they lead us in preparation and reflection.

Ushers will be seating and escorting people in the Sanctuary to ensure that social distancing is kept and to ensure safety of members. We ask that no hand-shaking or hugging be exchanged. If you would like to greet and visit with people we ask that you move to the outside of the building in order to keep areas as clean as possible.

We are still following the Bishop's Cabinet and Governor's guidelines while we gather for worship. Please pay attention to the posted signs that warn of at-risk conditions and individuals. If you are in one of these categories please consider continuing to join with us on our online or radio formats. We miss you dearly but we want to make sure that you will not be endangering yourself or others by coming to worship in person.

Stop the Spread of COVID-19



Do NOT enter if you:

- Have had fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
- Have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
- Have had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.

To protect vulnerable people from COVID-19, ADH discourages you from entering if you:

- Are aged 65 or older
- Have chronic health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and others
- Have a compromised immune system



ARKANSAS GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON'S RELIGIOUS-BASED ORGANIZATIONS GUIDELINES

- Houses of worship are strongly encouraged to continue to offer online platforms for participation in worship because it is not yet advisable/feasible for all congregants to come for in-person services.
- Post signs at all building entrances advising congregants not to enter if they have had a fever of 100.4° F or higher in the past two days, they have cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms typical of COVID-19, or they have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Post signs at all building entrances advising congregants that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 or more years old or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or immunocompromising conditions, because they are at higher risk for severe illness if infected by COVID-19.
- Post signs at all building entrances to inform people that no one will be admitted into the building without a face covering and that face coverings must be worn by congregants at all times while indoors. The only exceptions to the wearing of face coverings will be:
 - Worship leaders, only while addressing the congregation
 - Performing singers, only while singing
 - The above individuals must stand at a 12-foot distance from others while speaking or singing without a face covering.
 - All congregants who participate in Holy Communion, only while actually consuming the Elements
 - Face coverings for children under 10 years are optional.
 - Face coverings for children under 2 years old are prohibited by CDC guidelines.
- Places of worship may make their own decision on whether to allow children under 10 to return to corporate worship, as this may pose some risk of transmission of COVID-19.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations at all public entrances.
- Lines or cues for entrance and exit must be marked or monitored for maintaining a distance of six feet between people.
- Instruct all congregants, staff and volunteers that the strict six-foot physical distancing protocol applies to everyone aside from family groups, both indoors and outdoors. As above, speakers and singers will require additional distance while speaking or singing without face coverings.
- As much as possible, move “meet and greet” times before and after services outdoors. Because of the indoor face covering requirement, refreshments should be offered outdoors only.
- Instruct people to refrain from any physical contact with each other outside of family groups — no hand shaking, touching, embracing or reverencing of hands/rings of clergy.
- Aside from congregant family groups, seating in the sanctuary must follow strict physical distancing protocols with six feet between individuals.
- Eliminate or alter the use of items that are traditionally touched or handled by many different people. Examples are offering plates, the Torah (touch only by the bearer), holy water stations, shared prayer and song books, and the common cup (chalice) for Holy Communion.
- Refrain from having people come forward to a common altar rail for Holy Communion, blessing, altar call, etc.
- Refrain from holding religious education classes for children/youth or offering childcare.
- Sanitize all high-touch surfaces in the sanctuary and common areas after and between services.

Podcasts

Visit our NEW
website!!!

