

## FUMCCV Campus Re-Gathering Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **When will FUMCCV campus re-open?**

Now -- The offices are open for staff

July 1 – The offices will be open to the public (we encourage appointments be made or at least call ahead and let us know you are coming)

No earlier than July 15 – Two communion services on the quad each week (Wednesday noon and Sunday 2 pm). These will be Word and Sacrament only, lasting 15 minutes and all will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing.

No earlier than August 1 – Sunday morning services live streamed with a limited in person audience. We will begin this phase with a very limited audience comprised of just those persons unable to view worship virtually from their home. (Honestly, our concern is taking care of these mostly aged folks, who because of lack of technology have been completely cut off from the worship life of the congregation since mid-March). We recognize these worship services, due to the elimination of all in person singing, will be skewed heavily towards the virtual audience.

Next phase of planning (dates TBD)

In person worship for groups less than 100 people (recognizing that when we go to these larger groups, those elderly/health compromised who lack virtual technology will no longer be able to worship in person because social distancing will not be enough to keep them safe).

On campus small group/committee meetings (dates TBD) This will be decided in the next version of the plan. We want to make sure that we are comfortable with the in-person services before we restart groups in meetings on campus.

On campus Children's and Youth Ministry (dates TBD) This will be decided in the next version of the plan. We want to make sure that we are comfortable with the in-person services before we restart groups in meetings on campus.

Outside user groups accessing campus (dates TBD) This will be decided in the next version of the plan. We want to make sure that we are comfortable with the in-person services before we restart groups in meetings on campus.

### **Other churches are open for public worship, why are we not open?**

Each church has their own decisions to make – some have chosen to adhere closely to the County Public Health orders, and some have not.

As a United Methodist Church, we have been given directives from the Denomination with very specific protocol. Our Task Force on Re-gathering is developing the procedures that will help us follow this protocol, along with adhering to the San Diego County Public Health standards.

This protocol and these standards are set so that we can open as safely as possible. Just in the last weeks we have seen increases in infection rates in our region. Our goal is that not one person would become infected with Covid19 through the ministries of FUMCCV – your health and safety are our first priority.

In addition, there are insurance and liability concerns expressed by the denomination, that we must adhere to as United Methodist Church.

### **Will I have to wear a mask to worship?**

Yes. Currently the California State policy is that all wear masks when in public and this will be the requirement for any activities on the church campus (with the exception of those holding medical waivers). This requirement will remain in place until the recommendation is lifted by State and County Public Health officials.

### **What if I forget my mask?**

We have a supply of masks on hand and you will be given one before entering the gathering space. We encourage everyone to bring their own mask but in the case you forgot or do not have one, we will provide one for you.

### **Will my temperature be taken when I arrive on campus?**

If you are visiting the Church office or taking part in the Sunday morning worship experiences in person your temperature will be taken with a no touch device. As long as your temperature measures less than 100.4 you will be permitted to continue on campus.

### **How many people can attend a worship service?**

Currently the regulations state the no more than 100 or 25% of your room capacity can attend an in person, indoor worship service. In both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, 100 max will be our protocol. As stated above the first phase of this plan is to begin with a very limited

audience comprised of just those persons unable to view worship virtually from their home. For the outdoor Communion on the Quad services the ushers will allow people to enter until social distancing requirements are no longer possible.

**Do I have to be tested for the virus or antibodies before attending?**

No

**How will you determine who gets to attend worship if there are more than the allowed number of people requesting to attend?**

We will use an online sign up form (for those without online capabilities can call the church office) to sign up the first 100 people. If you are not one of the first 100 to register, then you will automatically be placed on the attendance list for the next Sunday of your choosing. If there are fewer than 100 people who pre-register for a single service, then the ushers will allow walk-ins until the number of 100 is met.

**When can I receive Holy Communion?**

Beginning mid-July (exact date to be released in early July) two Communion Services will be held on the quad each week (Wednesday @ Noon and Sunday @ 2 pm). These will be Word and Sacrament only, lasting 15 minutes and all will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. There will be limited seating, bringing your own lawn chair may not be a bad idea. The elements are a special form of host & cup that are prepackaged in little vessels similar to a creamer package. The elements will be blessed and one person, who will be masked and gloved, will pass the elements out.

**How are you going to keep me and my loved ones safe if we attend worship?**

This is the most important aspect to our church re-gathering plan. The entire campus has been deep cleaned and going forward we have instituted new cleaning protocols and increased custodial hours so that you can be sure that the space you are entering has been cleaned according the standards recommended by public health officials.

We will open slowly, pay close attention to public health recommendations, and use like industries as our best guide. Unfortunately, the re-opening of church campuses has become somewhat politicized and therefore some decisions have been taken out of the hands of public health officials due to political expediency. In some cases, we need to pay attention to like industries for safest guidance.

If Preschools cannot have multiple groups of kids and adults rotating through one space then it is not yet prudent for us to open for childcare on Sunday mornings.

If elementary schools are not yet putting children in classrooms, then it is not yet prudent for us to have our children in Sunday School classrooms.

If theatres, concert halls and the like are not yet filling their performances then it is not yet prudent for us to fill our worship spaces.

We can clean everything and we will. We can require health checks, masks, and social distancing and we will. We can buy gallons of hand sanitizer and place it everywhere you look and we will. We can also be cautious in our approach, having your safety and the safety of your loved one's at the forefront of our minds, and that is what we are doing.

### **What is the plan for Children's Sunday School?**

In the above answer there are clear hints that initially there will be no Children's Sunday School on campus. We will continue to provide a Children's Moment in the virtual worship service and a variety of programming through the Daily Digital emails. At some point we imagine there will be Sunday School conducted in small groups in outside spaces. We do not yet have a target date for this development and are keeping in close contact with public school officials and preschool licensing agencies, both of which have experts working diligently to provide safe programming for children.

### **Will there be nursery care available for my child?**

Initially we will not have the nursery open for childcare during worship as we usually do. Through the work of our Preschool we are in very close contact with childcare licensing agencies, who have experts advising them about these very issues. While it may be "legal" for us to open the nursery on Sunday morning we will take a more cautious approach. If Preschools cannot have multiple groups of kids and adults rotating through one space then it is not yet prudent for us to open for childcare on Sunday mornings.

### **Will there be singing in worship?**

No live singing, but yes for virtual singing. There have been multiple studies done about singing, one such article is listed on our website home page. Essentially, here is the problem. There are droplets that are emitted when we sneeze and cough and these droplets are relatively large and sometimes can even be seen by the naked eye. Because of their size they are quickly at the mercy of gravity and fall to the ground. This is why we are encouraged to social distance at six feet, usually these droplets will have fallen to the ground before that six foot barrier. There are also aerosols we must be careful of. These are even smaller particles emitted when we sing, yell, play a wind instrument, breath very heavily or otherwise expend a lot of breath. The size of these particles mean they are less susceptible to gravity and therefore float around and can do so for a prolonged amount of time, some articles suggesting up to 25 feet away. So

imagine, a 25 foot cloud of particles around every single person who is singing and that cloud can stay in existence for hours depending on the forced air of the room.

This obviously makes congregational singing and choral groups impossible. We have even decided to forgo soloists at this point because of the existence of this aerosol cloud that someone could unknowingly walk into. If you attend worship in person the only live music will be instrumental. There will be musical pieces performed by choral groups or the band, but those pieces will be pre-recorded and played on the screens in worship.

### **When can LIFE Groups, committees, ministry teams and other small groups begin meeting on campus?**

We are currently putting the protocol in place to re-open the offices and worship spaces and will be working and adjusting these protocols through the month of August. At that time we will begin, if public health officials give the okay, to put protocol together for these types of gatherings. We imagine at first they will be held in outdoor space on campus and then later moved indoors. Virtual medium is still the best and safest way to conduct this ministry.

### **Will there be food on Sunday mornings?**

No. Food service poses two risks. First, multiple hands touching food or packaging means multiple infection points if any one person is infected. Second, the purpose of the food in worship is not to feed you the breakfast you overslept on (contrary to popular opinion). The purpose of the food we serve on campus is to cause people to stop for a few extra minutes, gather with others and fellowship. This kind of gathering is expressly prohibited by County Health officials.

### **Will there be coffee available on Sunday mornings?**

No, for the same reasons listed above regarding food. We do realize some people cannot keep themselves awake during Pastor Brian's sermons without a stiff dose of caffeine....if this is you, you are permitted to bring a beverage, with a lid, into worship services.

### **If I don't feel safe attending in person worship can I still watch the services virtually?**

Covid19 has changed the world in multiple ways, caused us to do many things differently and hopefully will cause us to change some things about our church and our lives permanently. One thing this pandemic has caused us to do is to install permanent Live Streaming capability in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. We did not have this technology prior and now it is being installed as we speak with mid July as a projected completion date. (For those interested, we have funded this technology upgrade through cost savings in other ministry areas and by some

gifts from individuals. If you would like to give to support this campus upgrade, simply note your gift “live streaming.”) Now, every worship service we ever do can be viewed in person, live virtually or via recording at a later date. But, not just every worship service.....every funeral, wedding, concert, even classes or Bible Studies taught in the Fellowship Hall. You may never have to get dressed for church again!!

### **What will the protocol be if someone who has been on campus tests positive for the Covid19 virus?**

We will keep attendance records of any person attending services for worship or communion. In addition, employees and visitors will be registered as they enter the building. Should it come to our attention that someone who was on our campus has tested positive for the Covid-19 virus, we will work with our county health department to contract trace each person who may have had significant contact with the initial + person and notify that they should contact their medical provider for testing and follow up. The county has a very robust protocol for doing this and our diligence in keeping attendance records for 14 days (the maximum period of time it takes for someone exposed to develop symptoms) is a requirement of the health department just for this reason.

### **What kind of cleaning will take place between gatherings?**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has posted information on their website (which is available on our FUMC CV website as a microsite) on how to clean various surfaces between use. We will be using EPA-approved products to clean all touched surfaces between gatherings according to product specifications.

### **Will there be seating charts for Sunday morning worship?**

There will be specific areas in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall where seating will be arranged. We will fill the rooms as people arrive, so depending on when you arrive you will be shown to a particular seat or seating area. You will not be able to choose your seat as readily as you did before the pandemic.....this will be a challenge to us all since most of us sit in the exact same seat every week.

### **If the offering plates are not passed how can I continue to give financially?**

We have removed all items that could be passed among people in the pews of the Sanctuary...Bibles, hymnals, pencils, registration cards and of course this also means offering plates. In both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall services there will be an offering receptacle at

the entrance and exit of the room (you do not need to give on the way in and way out, but we will not turn you down if you offer). Of course you can always mail your offering to the church office, set up Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank to the church, give online through the website or text your giving to 619-825-2734 (there is no shortage of ways in which we will receive your generosity).

### **Can I park in any spot in the parking lot?**

Yes, do not park in the spot immediately next to another vehicle if it can be avoided and practice social distancing from the time you enter the parking lot until you leave.

### **Where will I enter the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall?**

The Sanctuary entrance and exit will be through the doors in east side nearest the Prayer Garden. At this entry point temperatures and registrations will be taken and you will be shown to the appropriate seating area. Upon completion of the worship service, the Sanctuary will be released back to front, through the same door, to minimize contact with one another.

The Fellowship Hall entrance will be at the North/East entrance nearest the elevator/stairs/Kidzone/bathrooms. At this entry point temperatures and registrations will be taken and you will be shown to the appropriate seating area. Upon completion of the worship service, the Fellowship Hall will be released East to West, through the same door, to minimize contact with one another.

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

Our goal is to have hand sanitizer everywhere you look, everywhere you turn around.