

March 9, 2022: COVID 19 FUMC PLAN

As was announced on July 29, 2021, we have revised our COVID-19 protocols in compliance with new rules issued by Governor Murphy and guidance issued by the CDC. Following is an updated statement of our COVID-19 Plan as approved by our pastors and staff, with input from various church leaders. Future changes that are in accordance with rules issued by Governor Murphy may be implemented by our pastors and staff with input from key church leaders without approval of Church Council. Should you have any comments or questions, please contact either of our pastors or a member of the church staff.

Current Procedures Effective 3/9/22

Two Services: 9:00 a.m. Sunday – Contemporary – in Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Sunday – Traditional in Sanctuary
Both services to be live-streamed via FaceBook and YouTube.

- Seating** No restrictions other than individuals should be respectful of people with whom they choose to sit near.
- Masks** People are encouraged to wear masks if they are comfortable wearing them, knowing there may be a variety of reasons that some people may choose to mask. We will continue to respect each person's decision to mask or not mask during worship and gatherings of the church.
- Children** Children are welcome to attend worship service with their families who will determine if they mask or not. We are providing Nursery services for worship and other small group gatherings. Nursery workers can choose to mask or not.
- Use of the Parlor** The Parlor (also known as The Upper Room) may be used as needed.
- Bulletins** We will continue to email a link to the Order of Worship and Announcements. We will also have paper bulletins available for those who attend service in person. These will be handed out by the Ushers.
- Communion** For now communion will continue to be offered by using single use packs that will be available upon entering the Church building or may be available at the front communion rails on occasion. Pastors and ushers will give direction.
- Singing** Congregants are invited to sing, clap, raise hands and stand during hymns and praise songs. Hymnals and Bibles are available in the pews

**Pastors,
Choir/KRR/Worship
Leaders, and
Other Participants
in Worship Service**

The front two pews on both sides of the Sanctuary will be reserved and left unused, except when singers and other musicians sit there when not leading worship. Singers, other musicians, worship leaders and pastors may sing, preach, pray, read or otherwise perform unmasked if comfortable doing so.

Offering

For the time being, offering plates will not be passed during the service. Instead, offering plates/baskets will be available in the Sanctuary. As always, electronic giving or mail remain available alternatives.

Bathrooms

No restrictions. Sanitizing wipes or spray will be available.

Exit

Please continue to be respectful of the social distancing preferences of others.

Attendance

Attendance records for possible contact tracing will rely upon attendance cards, completed individually (name(s) only if church office has contact information) and dropped in one of the provided offering plates/baskets. Thank you!

**If you are sick or do
not feel well before
coming to service, or
if you have been
exposed to someone
who has COVID-19
or other contagious
disease:**

We respectfully ask you to remain home, call your doctor and monitor your health in accordance with the directions of your doctor. Please worship with us online!

Other Topics

Cleaning Protocols: Normal, pre-Covid cleaning protocols.

Church Office: Office hours are M-F 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Other Church Space: Church groups and committees may book space in the Parlor/Upper Room, Chapel or Library during times when First Light is in session. Fellowship Hall and the Heritage Room may be available when First Light is not in Session. Any use of Church space should be reserved and pre-cleared through Joan Flamini from the church office. Church groups meeting in person should also consider arranging a ZOOM connection for any member who prefers to meet virtually. Any church group or committee may also continue to meet by ZOOM.

Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Memorial Services: Indoor weddings, baptisms, funerals, and memorial services are permitted. Pastors will work with families during pre-event counselling to determine each family's wishes regarding health protocols.

Wedding or Funeral Receptions with food and/or beverage: Such events must remain compliant with the current NJ rules for health and safety protocols and approved by pastors and church schedule availability.

Nursery, Childcare and Sunday School Classes: All are welcome!

NOTE: OTHER NON-CHURCH GROUP USE OF BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEE APPROVAL AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREGOING RULES AS OTHERWISE SUPPLEMENTED BY RESTRICTIONS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR THE USING GROUP.