



**First Congregational
Church**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2001 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Phone: (269) 983-5519

Fax: (269) 983-5988

Website: www.fccstjoseph.org

Email: office@fccstjoseph.org

Rev. Jeffrey Hubers, Senior Minister

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Blessings in the Name of the Risen One:

As we celebrate the Good News of Christ's Resurrection, spring weather appearing, and increased vaccinations, we also want to take time to update the FCC community on our revised safety protocols. Masks and distancing are still required when inside the church building, and all groups should continue checking in with the church office for contact tracing. However, for Sunday worship, you no longer need to call ahead – just come!

The next page has the complete list of revised protocols, but the main thing to remember now is that we no longer ask for pre-registration or seat reservation. If you want to join in-person for Sunday worship, just show up. We'll still have a check-in desk where we'll ask for your information for contact tracing, and our ushers will still be available to help with seating if you need, but we trust in everyone's ability to know proper distancing. We're also maintaining a seating capacity to allow for that distancing, so if all seating areas in the sanctuary and balcony are filled, you will need to sit in the overflow section in the fellowship hall.

All services will continue to be video-streamed and available online, and our Zoom account can be used for any groups desiring virtual meetings. Our building is open for use, but we ask for adherence to our safety protocols. With warmer weather on the horizon, we'll also utilize our beautiful outdoor space for gatherings and events.

There's much to rejoice in this moment, but we also know that we are not out of this pandemic yet. We pray for continued diligence and perseverance to care for one another and protect ourselves against this virus until it is defeated. Jesus has shown us the Way – it is the road of self-giving love, the path of suffering for the sake of others, but trusting in God's final answer of redemption and new creation. May the grace of Jesus Christ abide with us all and give us strength to proceed together in faith.

- Rev. Jeffrey Hubers & Church Council

Revised Protocols for In-Person, Indoors Services

Before you come to Sunday worship:

- You no longer need to call to reserve a space for Sunday; just show up if you want to join!
- If you feel ill, have a fever, cough, or other symptoms, stay home and join online.
- Those with underlying at-risk health conditions should remain home and join online.

Entering the building for Sunday worship:

- Please enter through Door # 1 (carport entrance).
 - Children participating in Sunday School must be dropped off at Door #3 (chapel entrance)
- Masks must be worn when entering the building – if you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you – masks must be worn as long as you are inside the building (no exceptions).
 - If you cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, we lovingly ask you to remain home
 - Children 5 years and over must be masked
- Please maintain physical distance between yourself and other parties at all times.
- Please check-in with the sign-in desk for us to maintain an attendance registry for contact tracing.
- After checking in, you may make your way to seating of your own choice.
 - Only those sharing the same bubble should be seated together
 - Ushers will be on hand to direct guests to available seating
 - Ushers will help monitor appropriate spacing and capacity for each row
- Fellowship hour will take place outdoors when weather enables.

During Sunday worship:

- Once capacity is reached in the sanctuary, parties will need to sit in the fellowship hall as overflow seating to watch the service via monitor.
- Offering plates will not be passed during worship. Offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance or given online at www.fccstjoseph.org/giving/ .
- Pre-packaged communion packets will be available on communion Sundays.
- Children not attending Sunday School must remain with their families during worship.
 - No nursery services will be provided at this time

Exiting the building after Sunday worship:

- Following the postlude, parties will be dismissed by the ushers. Proceed directly outside through Door #1 and into the parking lot or to the front lawn if there is fellowship hour.
- Families can pick up their children from Sunday School outside Door #3 at 11:30 a.m.