



**First Congregational  
Church**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Blessings in the Name of the Jesus:

We pray that everyone is enjoying both the summer's beauty and a greater sense of normalcy than ever before. With the [rescinding of Michigan's Emergency Orders \(6/22/2021\)](#), Church Council has joined in affirming that all aspects of both our worship and church life can resume as normal. The level of safety afforded by vaccinations allows this current state of relaxation and resumption of routine and activity. That being said, Church Council still maintains the importance of public health and safety guidelines as recommended by the CDC and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, particularly that those who have not been vaccinated should continue wearing masks indoors.

We know the virus is still present, but it is the hope of church leadership that everyone practices protection either through vaccinations or mask-wearing and distancing, thus maintaining this atmosphere of resumed normalcy. Church Council will continue monitoring state and federal recommendations as well as local levels of the virus, and may change our protocols if warranted by renewed warnings in order to uphold our value of life and love for one another.

This is a reminder for all of us that we are proceeding forward under the umbrella of hope and trust. No vaccination cards are required, and anyone's decision to continue wearing their masks should be respected. We all may have experienced this pandemic differently, but church leadership invites the image of Christ's love and the lessons of His hospitality to be held onto in our communal relationship and practice.

There's much to rejoice in this moment, but let's continue to pray for the perseverance to combat this virus. We pray for one another and for this restoration of communal life. We pray most of all that we follow Jesus in the Way of God's Kingdom – the way of self-giving love, the path of suffering for the sake of others, and trusting in God to complete our journeys for peace and redemption. May the grace of Jesus Christ abide with us all and give us strength to proceed together in faith.

- FCC Church Council