

Protocol for Indoor Worship Service

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need a reservation to attend in-person church services?

Yes! We have a spacing protocol in the church pews and choir loft so that we are separate...but together. You can call the church office at 541-345-8741 to let us know you're coming, or sign up for you (and your "pod" if applicable) via SignUp Genius.

Come early! Please consider arriving 10-15 minutes early, as seating folks and communicating the safety protocols will add some time to the arrival process.

2. What kind of mask will I need and where will I get one?

KN95 or N-95 masks are required. The church will provide KN95 masks at the door on your way into the Sanctuary. These types of masks provide better filtering for germs and other contaminants AND they fit faces better, making them more effective. Remember, a clean-shaven face provides the best seal and mask effectiveness.

3. Will I need to be vaccinated to attend church in person?

- *YES! Adults must be vaccinated and masked with KN95 or N-95 masks in order to attend indoor Sunday worship service. (The church will provide KN95 masks unless you have your own.)*
- *YES! Children 12 years and older must be vaccinated and masked to attend indoor Sunday worship service. (Children may bring their own mask for best fit.)*
- *EXCEPTIONS*
 - *Children under 12 years: Until vaccines become available for young children, children under 12 years may attend outdoor church activities with face masks on at all times.*
 - *Children under 3 years: Children under 3 years old may attend outdoor childcare and activities (mask preferred but optional if child is unable to tolerate).*

4. Why must I be vaccinated to attend in-person worship at FCC?

Safety and care for others in our church family and our community is, and always has been, a central tenant of our faith. Vaccination for COVID-19 and the use of face masks have been shown as the most effective tools against the life-threatening effects of the disease. In this way, we will show love for each other and our greater community.

5. Do I need to provide proof of vaccination?

Yes! Asking everyone to provide proof of vaccination will reassure our congregants and our community that we are committed to keeping public health as our guiding light. Proof of vaccination is a standard at many public sites, including restaurants, entertainment and sports venues, etc.

Please consider providing this proof before Sunday, either by emailing a picture of it to the church office (danac@fccc Eugene.org) or stopping by the church Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with your card. We don't need a copy of it, we just need to see that it's completed. You will only need to show your proof of vaccination one time. You can also show your vaccination card at the entrance to the church on Sunday morning (come a little early, please!).

If you haven't shared your card in advance or don't have proof of vaccination with you, we will invite you to return home and watch the service at home via Zoom or YouTube. We will look forward to seeing you at a future worship service once you have provided proof of vaccination.

6. What provisions will be made for young families and maximizing safety for children?

The health and safety of our yet unvaccinated children is of utmost importance. With this in mind, we will provide two options for children ages 0-11 years old. Our children will be invited to participate in childcare during the worship service. Childcare will take place outdoors unless the weather is extreme. Upon arrival to childcare, parents will answer screening questions about COVID-19 symptoms and exposures. If a child is experiencing symptoms or has had a known exposure we will ask that their parent take them home. Children will wash their hands and wear a mask and come play. All childcare supervisors have been vaccinated and will wear masks as well.

If a child does not want to participate in childcare, another option will be that they can go to the Fellowship Hall with their parent and watch the worship service via Zoom. We will work to create as much airflow as possible in that space and masks will also be required there. Parents will be responsible for supervising their children in the Fellowship Hall.

We are doing our best to keep our unvaccinated children separate from our adults for their safety and for the safety of the congregation. So, at this time, unvaccinated children will not be able to be in the Sanctuary or in the Wheeler Room, which will be reserved for vaccinated adults. Instead, parents can bring their children directly to the playground to check them into childcare. If childcare is not the right option for a family with an unvaccinated child, they can choose to watch the service in the Fellowship Hall via Zoom. This space will be reserved only for families with children 11 years and younger.

7. How many spaces at church will be used during Sunday worship to “Zoom” onto large screens?

We will Zoom the worship service to those who can't be here in person, and also into the Wheeler Room if the Sanctuary is full or for those folks who would prefer to be in a space with less people. We will also have the worship broadcast in Fellowship Hall for our families with unvaccinated children who want to see the worship service, so our children can be part of the Sunday worship as well.

8. Is there a deadline for reserving a spot at church each week?

No; it will be on a “first come, first served” RESERVATION system; once the Sanctuary is full, folks will then have the option to be in the Wheeler Room for Zoom broadcast of the service. People who come but have not signed up prior will be welcomed until non-reserved space is no longer available. Please contact the church office at 541-345-8741 to let us know you're coming, or sign up for you (and your “pod” if applicable) via SignUp Genius.

9. Will services be offered on-line as well as in person?

Absolutely! We will offer our Sunday worship services live via Zoom or a recorded version will be available on YouTube a day or two afterwards.

10. How will I enter the building safely?

There will be a table set up outside the lobby entrance off of 23rd Avenue with ushers sharing our protocol of being fully vaccinated (proof of vaccine will be asked for), masking up with KN95 masks, and social distancing. If our congregant meets the above requirements, they will move forward through the front doors and on into the Sanctuary. The same scenario will also be set up at the downstairs entry (the downstairs Atrium entry doors will be closed at 10:10 a.m.). You are welcome to get your nametag and take it home with you, bringing it back each Sunday.

Come early! As we will be asking for proof of vaccination and making sure all have KN95 masks, we want to try and keep a good flow of people moving through to their seats to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing.

11. How will we decrease the chance of breathing in germs from our neighbors?

- *Wear your KN95 or N-95 mask over nose and mouth at all times.*
- *Stay distanced by 6 feet. The ushers will seat people to facilitate this distance.*
- *We have increased airflow in our spaces. The church will maximize ventilation and add air filters.*

12. How will we find our seating?

The ushers will indicate to those entering the Sanctuary what the seating configuration is (there will be X's indicated by tape on the pews indicating properly distanced places to sit). Sit on an X!

13. What changes should I expect in the music program to increase safety?

We aren't singing in the pews. We are implementing creative approaches to continuing to provide meaningful, wonderful music to our worship time.

14. Because no activity is risk free, how shall I calculate my personal risk to guide my decision about whether to attend church in person or on-line?

Talk with your doctor. Include in the discussion the safety measures we are putting in place. Your doctor will look at age, underlying conditions and medications that could increase susceptibility and help you to get a better understanding of your individual risk level. This is also a personal decision about how much risk or anxiety feels acceptable for you. Sadly, it is not possible to provide a risk-free experience. See the following examples that increase risk:

- *Your doctor feels that you, or someone you live with, are at high risk of hospitalization or death if you contract COVID-19.*
- *You or someone you live with is very frail or has low immunity (as with chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive drugs). Common diseases treated with immunosuppressive drugs are: Psoriasis, Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Crohn's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Alopecia Areata.*

15. How will we safely leave the church building after service?

The ushers will stand at each pew moving forward from the back of the sanctuary as the pews empty...as in a wedding or celebration of life but in reverse order. Congregants will empty the back pew first and move row by row toward the front to insure properly distanced transition to outdoors.

16. How and where will I safely socialize after church?

Once the congregants are outside they will be free to socialize while they continue to be masked and socially distanced.

17. Are there times when I should not attend church to protect others?

Yes. Please, plan to not attend in-person church if:

- *You are unvaccinated.*
- *You have any symptoms: Fever, chills, cough, headache, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, chills, runny nose, increased sneezing, new loss of taste and/or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.*
- *Your doctor feels that you are immunosuppressed.*

18. Who developed these protocols?

The protocols were developed and approved by a reopening committee that includes members of the church board, ushers, medical professionals, research scientists, facilities committee, and FCC staff. They are based on our shared desire to demonstrate Christian love by caring and protecting members and friends of our church community by following the best available public health advice and recommendations to keep everyone safe.