

**Update for Sunday Morning Worship Protocols and Schedule
First Congregational Church
Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At their July meeting yesterday, the Church Council updated decisions regarding our safe assembly for worship on Sunday mornings. Here is the most recent official word from your Church Council:

For Sunday, August 1, the current protocols for morning worship are the following:

- 90 person occupancy limit in the sanctuary with required RSVP
- Mask-wearing during worship service
- Persons to be seated only in the cushioned pews to provide for adequate social-distancing
- Overflow and non-RSVP worshippers to be seated in the atrium and Gilmore Lounge by the greeters/ushers
- Please do not attend worship if you do not feel well
- RSVPs can be made with this link <https://rsvp.church/r/6pRTMas2> .
If you have questions regarding RSVP, please contact Polly in the church office, (269) 343-1549, Polly@kazoofcc.org
- Please also remember that we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion this Sunday, and you are encouraged to bring a drinking vessel from your own home as we gather around the Table. (There will be paper cups available at church also.)

For the six week stretch from Sunday, August 8 through Sunday, September 12, the Church Council is scheduling two morning worship services, with the following protocols:

8:45am Worship in the Chapel with a 40 person occupancy limit with required RSVP

- Mask wearing during the worship service
- Persons to be seated only in the padded pews to provide for adequate social-distancing
- Overflow and non-RSVP worshippers to be seated in the atrium and Gilmore Lounge by greeters/ushers
- Please do not attend worship if you do not feel well
- This worship service will not be live-streamed nor available via Facebook Live nor ZOOM.

10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary with an 85 person occupancy limit with required RSVP

- Mask wearing during the worship service
- Persons to be seated only in the padded pews to provide for adequate social-distancing
- Overflow and non-RSVP worshippers to be seated in the atrium and Gilmore Lounge by greeters/ushers
- Please do not attend worship if you do not feel well
- This worship service be live-streamed via Facebook Live and posted on Facebook only.

This information will also be posted on the First Congregational Church website: firstcongregationalkzoo.org.

The Church Council is aware of the emergence of the highly contagious Delta variant, plans for the eventual return to schools, and the anticipated arrival of WMU and K College students in coming weeks. We understand that the virus is spread by social behavior, so we desire to be intelligent, compassionate, and informed in our Sunday morning worship requirements for FCC. In addition, currently there are adjacent counties where a return to an indoor mask mandate is being recommended, so we will revisit our protocols at the August Council meeting, and call a special meeting of the Council should local conditions warrant such action.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and patience as we navigate this season together with faith, hope, and love.

If you have any questions regarding this plan for worship for the coming weeks, please contact the Moderator of Council - Amy Glass Amy@kazoofcc.org, or the Interim Pastor/Head of Staff - Nancy Kahaian Nancy@kazoofcc.org.