

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Downtown Kalamazoo



These guidelines (Fig. 1) are based on current Kalamazoo County COVID Community Levels, as set by the CDC (Fig. 2). These levels are determined by inpatient bed occupancy, new hospital admissions, and the current level of new cases per 100,000 population over the past 7 days. As this is the best metric we have to measure current COVID rates in our community, this is what FCC is using to determine what safety measures need to be in place during worship. We put these in place to have an easy-to-follow guide that allows for quick, clear response to the rise and fall of COVID rates in our community. These are general guidelines and may be changed or amended as according to the most current science and as Church Council and Staff feel is necessary to protect the congregation's health.

Important Things to Note:

- Masks will always be required for singing, no matter the community transmission level.
- Vaccinations are strongly encouraged.
- Do not come to church if you are feeling ill or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
- These guidelines apply to any activities occurring within the church building, both those hosted by the church and by external groups. They do not apply to outdoor activities happening on church grounds.

		Kalamazoo County Transmission Rate				
Worship Activity	Transmission Risk	High (>200)	High (<200)	Medium (>200)	Medium (<200)	Low
Capacity Limit	NA	Capacity at 50%	Capacity at 50%	No capacity	No capacity	No capacity
Congregational Singing	High	None	None	Limited	As desired	As desired
Greeting	Low	None	None	Non contact	As desired	As desired
Offering	Low	No contact	No contact	Yes	As desired	As desired
Communion	Low	Self-contained	Self-contained	Cups	Any form	Any form
Fellowship	Medium	None	None	Outdoor only	Any form	Any form
Social Distancing	NA	Required	Required	Requested	None	None
Masking	NA	Required	Required	Required	None*	None*
*Masks are always required during singing						
Vaccinations strongly encouraged						

Fig. 1: First Congregational Church COVID Guidelines. Edited OCT2022.

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

Fig. 2: COVID-19 Community Levels Chart. Source:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>