



First United Methodist Church

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February 24, 2021

Dear First Church Family,

Grace and peace to you as we journey together through this Lenten Season.

Over the past several weeks our pastors and staff, in consultation with our Re-gathering Task Force, have been reviewing the weekly COVID-19 data in our area. We are pleased to announce that we are planning to **re-gather for in-person worship** beginning Sunday, March 7, at 8:15 a.m.

The service will still be available online beginning live at 8:15, and posted on our website, fumchurch.com so that you can worship at the time that is best for you.

For those returning to worship in person, we will practice the health and safety guidelines that were in place last summer and fall:

- We will ask that you **pre-register** on our church website. Information will be provided for you in next week's email.
- We will ask that you arrive no more than 15 minutes before the start of the service. When you arrive, there will still be **two designated entrances**: the office entrance, which is handicap accessible, and the alley entrance, which leads up the steps and into the green chair section of the sanctuary.
- To ensure safe physical distancing, **ushers will seat you**. Members of the same household will be asked to remain together. Childcare will not yet be provided. We ask that children remain with their parents.
- As before we ask that everyone **wear a mask** the entire time you are in the building. **Hand sanitizing** stations will be available for you at each entrance. Also, while music will still be an important part of worship, **we will not yet have congregational singing**. Likewise, we will still avoid greetings that involve touch and passing offering plates. When worship is over, we will ask that you remain in your seats until **directed by an usher to leave** and to exit the building.

While it's exciting to take this **first positive step** toward re-gathering, we look forward to many more steps, including **launching our 10:45 service** and beginning to **re-gather for other ministries** with children, youth, and adults. We will keep you informed.

I praise God for your continuing faithfulness amid all the challenges of this past year. We look to the future with hope, trusting in the promise of Scripture: *Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.* (Ephesians 3:20)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Denny

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors