

COVID Safety Guidelines at FUMC (updated 7/16/21)

We are now allowing “fully-vaccinated” people to attend worship services without a mask. Our church’s Reopening Task Force met to plan how our church could respond to the new CDC guidelines and the new guidelines from the Bishop’s office, from our denomination here in Florida. The team thoughtfully came up with the plan that is now presently in place, until circumstances change. **You will note that the 6’ social distancing requirement is still in place**, so that still prevents us from doing all the things we used to do, but everyone seems to enjoy those things that have relaxed.

What's new?

- Fully-vaccinated adults are no longer required to wear a mask! We are going by the honor system and trusting that if you are NOT vaccinated, you WILL wear a mask to church. We will have a special “Comfort” section (back rows of East section of sanctuary) for anyone who feels more comfortable wearing a mask and prefers sitting *apart* from those who are not. Everyone in that section must wear a mask. Others may sit in any section, masked or unmasked, mixed.
- We can sing in church again! Hymnals and Bibles are back in the pews. Choir, for vaccinated singers, may take a while to start up again, as it is non-season, summertime, and choir members would have difficulty singing socially distanced from one another.
- Bathrooms will no longer be sanitized between uses by a custodian. There are disinfectant wipes for you to use before/after you use the facilities. Please do not flush those down the toilet.
- Fully-vaccinated staff, volunteers and meeting attendees are not required to wear a mask on campus.

What has NOT changed?

- The 6-foot social distancing guidelines between family units. This applies to everyone! PLEASE follow our ushers’ request as to where to sit, while this restriction remains in place for everyone’s safety.
- The way we do communion and anointing during recent in-person worship will remain, while we have social distancing requirements.
- The way we do staggered entrance and exits to maintain our distance.
- Offering will still be collected at the doors upon exiting and attendance still taken at the door, as we cannot pass offering plates or attendance booklets from one parishioner to another.
- Children’s Sunday school will not yet start up--- and children aged two and above, must still wear a mask unless they are fully vaccinated.
- Funerals will be handled differently – please see pastor for details.
- Meetings on campus still require social distancing, thus there is a limit to number of people allowed in a meeting room—based on size of room.
- Food will not be served anywhere on campus.