



COVID-19 Resumption of Public Worship Guidelines

Phase One

Beginning **Sunday, September 27, 2020**, First UMC Orange will resume in-person worship.

- ◆ **Self-screen:** We ask that each person self monitor before attending. Do not attend if you have respiratory problems, don't feel well, or have a fever.
- ◆ **One worship service at 10 am in the Family Life Center:** The style will be similar to what we have presented online with a shorter time format. While there is more room in the sanctuary, it is not adequately equipped for our needs at this time. To avoid potential contamination and spread, we will not be using hymnals, passing out bulletins, or distributing other handouts. The Family Life Center is equipped to show all of this on the screen so that all may still participate.
- ◆ **Facial Coverings:** We ask that everyone wear a facial covering. Please bring your own mask. The church will have a limited supply to provide for those who arrive and do not have a mask.
- ◆ **Hand Sanitizer** will be available in the entrance.
- ◆ **Chairs** will be spread out in pairs with 6 feet in-between. We ask that families pull in adjacent chairs for your groups properly distanced from others.
- ◆ **Baskets** will be placed near the entrance to the worship space for your offering, as you arrive or as you leave. We continue to recommend online or electronic giving through your financial institution.
- ◆ **Holy Communion** will be shared with the utmost care by adhering to CDC and denominational guidelines.
- ◆ **Other Physical Distancing:** We are still working on how we will get people in and out of the facility. This task will fall to our ushers and greeters. Training is scheduled for 9:30 am prior to worship. Worship will be dismissed in an orderly fashion to allow distance between congregants. There will be no gatherings prior to worship or following.
- ◆ No Nursery will be available.
- ◆ Sunday School Classes will not meet.
- ◆ The Welcome Center will not be open. Feel free to bring your own coffee in a container from home.

Whatever our Church does in its gatherings and other ministries expresses our understanding of who God is, what it means to be disciples of Jesus, and how the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses to what God intends for the world

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“Lord, help us to be a family of faith; to worship you, learn, grow in your likeness, and serve you by serving others”.

This is the prayer we developed as a United Church during one of our previous crises. It is the essence of who we are. In times of crisis, when we must address new and challenging practical concerns, our basic theological convictions still apply: love of God and neighbor; regard for human bodies and fellowship; worship and sacraments; inclusive hospitality that welcomes all and avoids stigmatizing others; and the beauty of God, the world, and human creativity .

We have taken a cautious and slow re-entry to gathering together. Though we have had several “almost” starts, we are ready to gather again. Because we love God, we want to offer worship that brings out our very best and welcomes the Holy Spirit. Because we love our neighbors, we want to offer a worship that makes sure we bring no harm to others when we gather. It is our obligation to protect those who may be at a higher risk. Some may see these guidelines as hardships and restrictive, but they are designed for the greater good of all of our people. We admit that all of this is experimental. Things will be different and feel different, too. Bear with us as we learn new ways to gather together for worship. These are challenging times and small acts of kindness and generosity are powerful witnesses to the Love of God through Jesus Christ and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in our Christian community and in our lives.

Grace and Peace,

Greg Defrates

Greg Defrates, One Board Chair

Lani Rousseau

Rev. Lani Rousseau, Pastor