

# Congregational Guidelines for Opening FPC

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**Dear Friends,**

We are very happy to welcome our church family back to worship. Of course there will be changes in our worship service and how we prepare to attend services. Below is a list of questions and guidelines to help with your preparation.

Please know that all these guidelines are written with one goal in mind – to allow all members of our church family who wish to worship in the sanctuary to do so safely, given the ongoing pandemic. We are planning two in-person services each weekend – Saturday at 5 pm and Sunday at 9 pm. The Sunday 10:30 virtual service will continue for the foreseeable future. If you or any members of your family are in an older age group thought to be more vulnerable to serious effects from Covid-19, or if you or family members have health conditions that make you or them more vulnerable, we urge you to stay at home and participate in the 10:30 virtual service. We are taking all reasonable precautions to keep the risk of virus transmission at FPC very low, but it is not possible to share a building with other people and have zero risk. Please make your decisions regarding which service to attend with those considerations in mind.

We do not want to turn anyone away, but ushers will stop admitting people once safe capacity is reached.

Please follow the instructions of the ushers. They have been trained on how to ensure physical distancing for your safety. For the safety of all, they will not be shaking hands or handing out bulletins, though they will greet you warmly. If you have a safety concern, please share it with an usher immediately.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- Does anyone in your family/group have a fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea?
- Has anyone been sick this week?
- Has anyone been in close contact within the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19?
- If the answer to any question above is yes, please stay home and worship via our 10:30 am on-line service. Please come to worship when everyone in the family is well.

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

- Wash your hands
- Take advantage of your restroom needs at home (only the Heritage Hall restrooms will be available for use)

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## REMEMBER TO BRING FROM HOME:

- Face masks (face masks are optional for children 8 and under)
- Worship guides either printed out or on your electronic devices (The office will continue to send out downloadable versions to print at home.)
- Activity bag for younger children (no nursery or church activity bags are available at this time)

## UPON ARRIVAL AT FPC

- Heritage Hall opens 20 minutes before the start of service.
- When the service starts, the doors will be closed. We will not be able to admit anyone who is late for church.
- Enter through Heritage Hall with your family group.
- Face masks will be required once you arrive at FPC and until you exit church.
- Temperature will be taken by an usher with a contactless device.
- Marked offering boxes will be available, but on-line giving would be appreciated.
- An usher will escort you and your family to a pew.
- Ushers will seat starting at the back of the church and proceed to the front.
- Any child under 8 years old needing to use the restroom must be accompanied by an adult.
- Please remain in the pew for passing of the peace. No shouting.
- There will be no congregational hymns, songs or sung responses at this time.
- Communion will be at the 5 pm service only. Directions will be given at that time.
- Please remain seated at the end of the service. An usher will dismiss row by row beginning with the back of the sanctuary.
- Please wait until you are outside of the church building to remove masks.
- Move away from the steps before visiting with friends.
- You will exit via the front doors.