



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For more information: info@fupcfayorg
fupcfay.org | (479) 442-4411

INDOOR WORSHIP IS NOW AVAILABLE AT 8:30 AM

The Session of FUPC has approved indoor, in-person worship services at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. This service will be held in the Sanctuary. Our Sanctuary is a large space, and will support wide physical distancing throughout the pews. This worship opportunity will be closely monitored and evaluated in compliance with the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state and local public health officials. A worship service may be suspended by Session at any time.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Sanctuary will not look or feel like it did in the past, but we will still be able to worship God together. Early services will be shorter (around 45 minutes), lighter, and meditative. They are intended for those who are up early, following CDC behaviors, showing no COVID-19 symptoms, willing to mask for the entire time, and prepared to abide with social distancing. Some worship elements will be familiar and some innovative as we get used to being together again for worship. We expect God to be present in the newness and change.

Here are other things you may expect from 8:30 am worship:

- We will be returning slowly and keeping attendance numbers low for all to be safe.
- Indoor areas will be disinfected before use. Restrooms will be available and are equipped with disinfectant spray.
- There will be one entrance to the Gathering Place, the door closest to the Knox building. There will also be only one available door from the Gathering Place to the Sanctuary.
- To comply with recommended one-way traffic patterns, there will be only two exits at the end of the service, neither returning worshipers to the Gathering Place. The organ and center sections will exit near the Music Room; the pulpit section will use the exit near the soundboard.
- We will need to take temps and keep records of your attendance as you enter.
- The pews have been taped to allow for social distancing and seating for 50 people. We can accommodate up to 75 individuals by adding seating at the back and in the Gathering Place.
- Singing will primarily be by music leadership. The pews nearest the organ will be for those who do not want to be near singing; the pews nearest the pulpit will be for those who would like to sing very softly or hum under their masks. Vocalists and ensembles will be distanced at least 16' from the congregation. Fewer hymn verses will be included. Elements like quiet personal reflection while music is played, humming, rhythm, sign language, and movement will be used.
- Offering plates will not be passed. An offering box will be at the Sanctuary entrance.
- There are temporary lighting fixtures at the front of the Sanctuary that cannot be taken down or moved until other lighting has been secured. These lights are important for the livestream service.

WHAT ABOUT THE LATE SERVICE?

Our livestream service at 11 am will still be available every Sunday on YouTube for all who choose to worship from home. The early service will not be livestreamed.

WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE TO ATTEND 8:30 AM WORSHIP?

As much as we miss being together, we encourage individuals in the following categories not to attend the in-person service and to participate by worshipping at 11 am on livestream:

- those who are over 65 or with underlying health conditions (high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, heart concerns, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma, weakened immune system, etc.)
- those running a temperature or having symptoms typical of COVID-19 (including coughing, shortness of breath, lost sense of smell, unexpected fatigue, etc.)
- those may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, including secondary exposure (i.e. someone in your household was potentially exposed and has not been tested)
- those whose work or other circumstances consistently place them around people who may have been exposed to COVID-19
- those who have been in any large group gatherings and have been notified that someone is now showing symptoms of COVID-19

Please do not take risks with your own health or the health of others. If you prefer not to wear a mask, please continue to worship by livestream at 11 am. We are committed to the safety of all.

IF YOU DECIDE TO ATTEND:

- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Please wear a mask upon arrival and throughout the duration of the service.
- Follow 6' physical distancing at all times. Pews will be marked to encourage distancing.
- Greet one another with nods and smiles instead of any handshakes, hugs, or other physical contact.
- Childcare cannot be available. But children are welcome at all FUPC services.
- Sit in family groups only if you have been together often. Please divide if family groups are large.
- Even if you have been together socially with FUPC friends, please sit separately.
- After the service, wave a thoughtful "hello" across the campus from a safe distance without any extended socializing or congregating.

WHAT ABOUT SPEAKING, THE PEACE, AND THE PRAYERS?

Liturgy continues to be important to worship at FUPC. Those who lead worship will be distanced 16' to speak. The congregation will join in (as you choose) while wearing masks. We will not move toward each other for the Peace but will use other methods to joyfully acknowledge God's presence in our church family.

HOW CAN I MAKE A FINANCIAL OFFERING?

Thank you for your faithful commitment to giving! There will be one secure box at our welcome table for your pledges and offerings. You may also safely send financial gifts by U.S. mail, arrange for automatic withdrawal from your checking account, or use the Give tab on the website to contribute.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK?

Of course we are doing all we can to prevent an outbreak within our congregation. But if this unfortunate possibility occurs, we have systems in place. We will keep a weekly record of each person who attends in person worship. If you develop any COVID-19 symptoms, it is imperative that you call the church immediately so we can keep the congregation informed of possible exposure. This information will be reported to the Arkansas Department of Health.

WHAT IS OUR COMMON PURPOSE?

Whether we are worshiping God in-person at 8:30 am or by livestream from home, we devote ourselves to practicing our faith, to showing God's love, and to proclaiming and serving Christ, the Hope of our changing world.