

Reopening church Guidelines – March 7, 2021

Hello Members and Friends of First UMC in Missoula,

The leadership of our church met recently and determined that we are able to partially reopen our church for "normal" operations -- normal, that is, for our continuing pandemic situation! What this means is that we are moving towards a partial **reopening of our sanctuary for in-person worship on Sunday, March 7th** in accordance with the "Yellow Phase" designation set forth by our Conference n (see attached Relaunch Plan Grid). The guidelines approved by Conference mandate that the following protocols/parameters are in place:

1. Under 50 in attendance – RSVP required for planning
2. Masks are mandatory (some will be provided which can be taken home and washed after worship)
3. No singing (humming allowed; special music under proper-distance protocol)
4. Communion remains virtual OR special sanitary elements provided (i.e., individually sealed and properly distributed) (*we will invite persons initially to bring their own elements*)
5. No coffee hour/reception time
6. No physical contact (refrain from handshaking, hugging, etc.)
7. Sit in designated pew seats for proper distancing.
8. Sanitation protocol followed by all entities.
9. Attendance/contact information gathered in case of need for follow-up.
10. Encourage those who are most vulnerable to Covid-19 to not attend in-person services (i.e., those over 60, with health conditions)

With the above in mind, we need to know who is interested in physically attending worship on Sundays. **Could you please let me know if you are interested by email me at john@fumcmissoula.com?**

We will be continuing our online services as we have been doing so for the year (can you believe it?), so the media equipment will continue to give a different feel to the sanctuary -- but we have received our **new media equipment** and are assembling a team to oversee its operation. Once in place and operational, our sanctuary will return largely to how it looked before Covid. A work in progress -- but we are getting there.

I hope to hear from you soon!

Grace to you,
Pastor John