



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
an open community united in love & justice

## **INDOOR WORSHIP PROTOCOLS – SUMMER 2021**

We are so excited to welcome you back to indoor worship at First United. At the same time, we are cognizant of the significant health risks associated with COVID-19. We are mindful that not everyone in our community can be vaccinated and that there are some who, due to compromised immune systems, do not receive the same level of protection from vaccines. As such, we have developed the following protocols to allow everyone who wishes to worship in person to do so as safely as possible.

### **Capacity Limits and Advance Reservations**

In order to allow social distancing and to avoid crowds, we are initially capping our summer services at 200 people. Advance reservations will be required through Eventbrite. The link to register can be found in The Messenger Bell, the weekly Eblasts, and at [firstunitedoakpark.com](http://firstunitedoakpark.com). We will have a limited number of unreserved seats available for guests who may not be aware of the advance reservation system. If you are reading these protocols, though, you are now aware! Please do register.

### **Masks Are Required**

We will have a supply of disposable masks available should you forget your mask at home.

### **Entering and Exiting the Building**

Three entry doors will be propped open to allow easy entry and exit: the Lake Street sanctuary doors, the south double glass doors near the parking lot, and the glass doors that open directly into the lounge.

### **Hospitality Volunteers**

Our hospitality volunteers will greet you as you enter the Sanctuary. They will hand you a bulletin and answer any questions that you might have. If you would prefer to view the bulletin electronically, we will have a QR code available so that you may use your smartphone to do so.

### **Button System**

Some of us are longing for hugs while others are feeling more cautious. As you enter the sanctuary, please take a look at our button chart and take the color that corresponds to your comfort level so that we all know how to greet one another.

### **Seating**

We are fortunate to have a beautiful, large sanctuary that allows us to have up to 200 people in the sanctuary for worship. Groups will be seated every third row or so with households staggered side to side. Our hospitality volunteers will be happy to help you find an appropriate open area if you have any questions.

### **Children in Worship**

We love children in worship at First United! Our summer services will incorporate a super-sized Time for Sharing that children will be able to safely view from their seats. We will also have individual bags available with crayons, coloring pages, and other activities to help children worship in their own way. The nursery will not be open during summer indoor worship.

### **Music**

Music is an integral part of worship, but group singing is still one of those activities considered “high risk” under CDC guidance. For the time being, we will incorporate instrumental music and vocal soloists as part of worship.

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## **Communion**

We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month. We will update these protocols with specific information about communion before our first Communion Sunday in October.

## **Offering and Prayer Requests**

To those who choose to support the church with a monetary gift in worship, we are so grateful. There will be a designated time during the service for you to bring forward your gift and/or any prayer requests that you might have.

## **Restrooms**

Restrooms will be open and available for use. We ask that only one person at a time use each restroom except for parents needing to help young children.

## **Fellowship**

You are welcome to greet one another after worship on the patio and lawn. Please note that coffee and tea will not be served before or after worship.