



First Church has been working with the Desert Southwest Conference COVID Committee over the past few months to develop a plan to resume our in-person Sunday worship services. We formed a Task Group earlier this summer to meet, discuss, and create our plan to submit to the Conference COVID Committee for approval. Our plan was recently approved and now we await the guidance of Bishop Bob Hoshibata to allow churches to resume in-person worship services. Our approved plan is outlined below.

Social distancing

- Our sanctuary capacity will be limited to 100, a guideline of 25% of our maximum capacity. Congregants will be asked to pre-register to attend in-person services to give confidence to those in attendance and planning for the worship teams and staff. The registration process will provide information about what to expect and our safety protocols.
- Greeting will be contact-free. **Hosts** will be instructed not to shake hands, hug, or touch any person.
- All sanctuary doors will be opened and closed by the **hosts** before and after the worship service.
- Seating will be socially distanced and marked accordingly.
- To avoid crowding near the doorways, **hosts** will provide for a controlled entry and exit pathway (see the map on the next page). Entrance will be through the narthex and exiting will be by dismissing the congregation by sections and rows through the north transept.
- Fellowship time on Sunday mornings is suspended until a future undetermined date.

Sunday Morning Worship Services

- Contemporary Worship at 9 a.m.
- Traditional Worship at 11 a.m.

Only one (1) in-person worship service will be held each week. In-person services will alternate between the 9 a.m. contemporary service one week, and the 11 a.m. traditional service the following week. A schedule will be provided to the congregation. Please note: *Capacity will be limited to 100 seating capacity. Congregants will be asked to pre-register to attend in-person worship services.*

Livestream/Online

Each Sunday will include two (2) *Livestream/Online* services for at-home worship.

- Contemporary Worship at 9 a.m.
- Traditional Worship at 11 a.m.

Contemporary Service Music

Praise Band: A group of 5 (or less) instrumentalists and/or worship leaders will gather to lead songs. A soloist or duo (isolated from others in the sanctuary) will lead worship.

Traditional Service Music

The Chancel Choir will not resume in-person singing until some date in the future. Along with the organ/piano, a soloist or very small group (isolated from others in the sanctuary) will lead worship from the far-front chancel near the high altar. Handbells will resume only when proper social distancing protocol can be arranged.

Congregational Singing: The congregation will be encouraged to engage in worship with their bodies, minds and spirits, but not with their singing voices.



Worship Registration and Disclosures for “Intent to Attend”

In an intentional effort to provide a safe and healthy worship experience, we have configured our sanctuary to allow seating for 100 "planned attending" people. We will ask people to give their intention to attend worship services online or by telephone. Some of the items mentioned in the upcoming registration are below.

By registering and attending our worship service, you agree to the following:

- I (we) agree to follow the safety requirements adopted by First United Methodist Church of Phoenix.
- I (we) will wear a mask while on the church campus.
- Greeting will be contact-free. Hosts will be instructed not to shake hands, hug, or touch any person.
- All sanctuary doors will be opened and closed by the hosts before and after the worship service.
- Seating will be socially distanced and marked accordingly.
- To avoid crowding near the doorways, hosts will provide for a controlled entry and exit pathway. Entrance will be through the narthex and exiting will be by dismissing the congregation by sections and rows through the north transept.
- On behalf of yourself and your children, you release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless First United Methodist Church of Phoenix, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to your participation in our programs, services or activities. You understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of this organization, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any such program, service or activity. Your agreement to this covenant will be held by First United Methodist Church of Phoenix.

By registering to attend our worship service, you agree to the following:

- I (we) will wear a face mask on the church campus
- I (we) will not attend if feeling unwell
- I (we) will practice social distancing on the church campus
- I (we) will honor and respect the safety and health of others on the church campus

Do you agree to our safety requirements?

- Yes
- No

SUBMIT



Information on this page will be included with an online and telephone registration form to give your “intent to attend” Sunday in-person worship services. When you submit the online form or share your “intent to attend” with us on the telephone, you will be giving your agreement to the questions above.

Online and telephone “intent to attend” Sunday in-person worship will be open each Wednesday prior to a Sunday morning service.

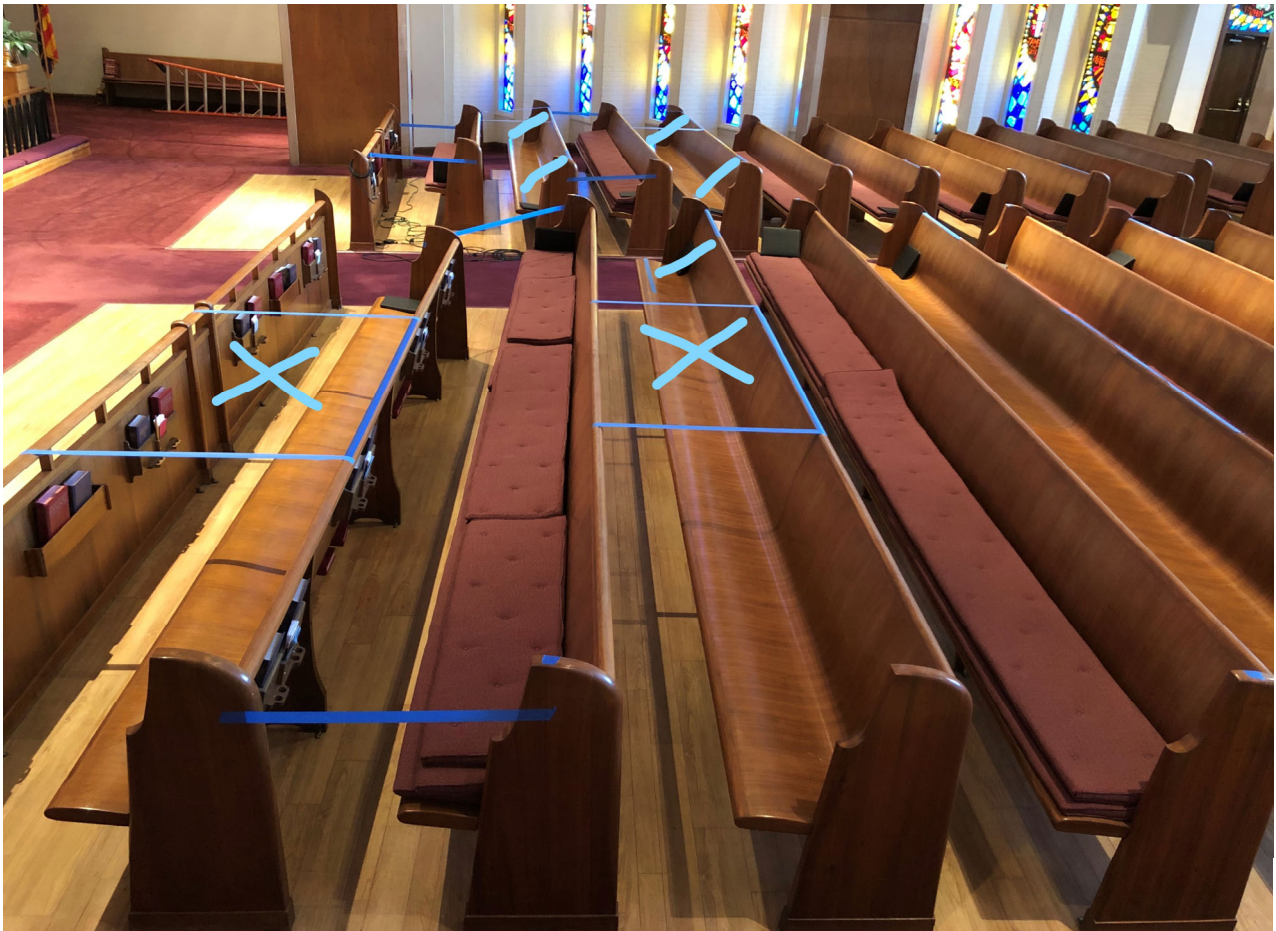
More details about “intent to attend” will be published in the coming weeks.

Small Groups


Small groups of no more than ten (10) people may request a gathering Monday – Friday for purposes of ministry including, but not limited to, memorial services, Bible studies, support groups and recording of livestreaming worship. All spaces will be cleaned by our custodian staff according to CDC guidelines.


- *Allow one (1) group to meet at a time, with at least a two-hour window of time between meetings.*
- *Schedule one (1) meeting room only for use by small groups (Epworth Room) and the adjoining restrooms.*
- *Schedule small group meeting times to not go past 6 p.m.*
- *Continue virtual administrative committee meetings since most of those groups are larger than ten (10) people and traditionally meet in the evening hours.*
- *Continue the current virtual procedures that are being followed for children, youth and adult Sunday classes.*
- *No plans have been made to offer childcare or nursery services.*

If an individual self-reports a personal COVID exposure to First Church leadership, and he/she has been in contact with other individuals at First Church, with HIPAA privacy policies in mind, First Church leadership will inform other individuals who may have been exposed so they may protect their own health. If the location of exposure at First Church can be identified, that space will be closed until sanitized further according to CDC guidelines.



Map of one-way entry/exit paths for Sunday mornings

 = pathway open

 = pathway closed

