

# A Path to Return to In-Person Worship and Activities at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Bloomington

A core part of First Christian Church’s (FCC) identity is to be a welcoming community that shares the inclusive love of Christ. We share Christ’s love by loving each other, which no doubt includes keeping our members, staff, and volunteers safe during this ongoing pandemic. Therefore, our FCC Medical Taskforce has been tasked by the board to closely monitor guidance from health officials and to carefully create and implement a phased-in plan that will allow us to open our building for in-person worship and other activities.

Given the nature of the ongoing situation and to help ensure everyone’s safety, the particular steps are always subject to change at any point. Because we may have to remain in a given step for an extended time or even return to an earlier step based on the evolving conditions of the pandemic, we ask that you please be prayerful and patient. The FCC Medical Taskforce will provide implementation details and make recommendations to the Board for their consideration and possible approval. Moving from one step to the next, as outlined in this document, will be contingent upon board approval. The progression toward each step will always take into consideration guidance from public health officials (state, county, city) as well as the local management and conditions of the virus. For the latest updates and step implementation, please check the FCC website ([www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org)).

Through each step, we will continue to broadcast our worship service online so that those who need to stay home may continue to do so. **Based on the guidance of public health officials, we urge anyone experiencing symptoms and those in the at-risk population (over 65 or with underlying health conditions) to continue online worship from the safety of your home.**

*Graphic summary of each step is below (keep reading below the graphic for more detailed information about each step)*

	Step 1 (current as of March 15, 2020)	Step 2 (date TBD)	Step 3 (date TBD)	Step 4 (date TBD)
Gathering size limits	None	Up to 50 people total in the building	Up to 100 people total in the building	100+ people allowed
Worship services	On-line only	Limited capacity for Sanctuary worship with modified procedures	Expanded capacity for Sanctuary worship with modified procedures	Careful return to more traditional worship with modified procedures
Facial coverings	Required when in building	Required when in building	Strongly recommended when in building	Not required, but can be worn if personal preference
Reservations/Seating for worship service	Not available	Reservations required	Reservations required	Open seating available

		Seating assigned	Seating assigned	
Coffee Fellowship	On-line only	On-line only	On-line only	Possible with modifications
Childcare/Nursery	Not available	Not available	Not available	Available
Meetings/Programming	On-line only	On-line only	Limited availability with approved safety plan	Available with approved safety plan
Funerals	Graveside services only	Graveside services only. Memorial services held at local funeral homes.	Graveside services only. Memorial services held at local funeral homes.	Available with approved safety plan
Weddings	Not available	Not available	Not available	Available with approved safety plan
Church building	Closed with the exception of one-time only requests (of 10 or less individuals) with approval and safety plan in place	Open for Sunday worship only, with the exception of one-time only requests (of 10 or less individuals) with approval and safety plan in place.	Open for Sunday worship and limited activities with prior approval/safety plan	Open for all activities with prior approval/safety plan
Church office	Essential staff only	Essential staff only	Essential staff only	Open
MCUM food pantry donations	Drop off at Pastor Helen's house	Drop off at Pastor Helen's house	Drop off at Pastor Helen's house	Drop off at church lobby

## **STEP 1: SAFER FROM HOME**

### ***Where we have been since March 15***

- Worship is online-only
- The church building / office is closed during the week, and staff should work remotely as much as possible. Only essential staff should come into building to perform necessary church related tasks when needed.

- All meetings and programming are conducted online (by phone, video, email, etc.).
- Graveside services are offered with immediate family only.
- On-site weddings not available at this time.
- MCUM Food Pantry donations can be dropped off at Pastor Helen's house.
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols.

## **STEP 2: MINIMAL ON-SITE ACTIVITY**

***Cases have been in decline in our area for an extended period***

- Limited on-site worship capacity *may* resume, with social distancing guidelines for seating between family units in the Sanctuary, allowing for up to 50 people total in the building (this includes staff/assistants needed for the service). Seating will be assigned.
- No childcare services available.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms and those in the at-risk population should remain safe at home.
- No-contact worship service with modified bulletins, greetings, communion, offering, dismissal, etc. and no congregational singing.
- All meetings and programming are conducted online.
- Masks are required when entering, exiting, or moving around the building.
- \*Memorial services will be held at local funeral homes. Graveside services only will be available through the church.
- \*On-site weddings not available at this time.
- MCUM Food Pantry donations can be dropped off at Pastor Helen's house.
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols.

*\*Due to staff limitations, the church does not have the capacity to oversee and monitor social distancing protocols for weddings, funerals, and memorial services.*

## **STEP 3: VIGILANT ACCOMMODATIONS**

***Society has made significant progress in stopping spread of the virus***

- Potentially expanded capacity for worship in the sanctuary with social distancing guidelines in place and assigned seating (up to 100 people total in the building – includes staff/assistants).

- No childcare services available.
- No-contact service with modified bulletins, greetings, communion, offering, dismissal, etc. and no congregational singing.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms and those in the at-risk population should remain safe at home.
- Masks encouraged when entering, exiting, or moving around the building.
- Optional on-site church meetings and events for small groups and limited-capacity performances; all activities must have an approved safety plan.
- \*Memorial services will be held at local funeral homes. Graveside services only will be available through the church.
- \*On-site weddings not available at this time.
- MCUM Food Pantry donations can be dropped off at Pastor Helen's house.
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols.

*\*Due to staff limitations, the church does not have the capacity to oversee and monitor social distancing protocols for weddings, funerals, and memorial services.*

## **STEP 4: A CAUTIOUS RETURN**

### ***The virus is largely under control***

- Careful approach to more traditional service with enhanced seating in the sanctuary and modified fellowship time afterward.
- Pending guidance at the time, choir and congregational singing may resume in some form.
- Return to in-person church activities, including Sunday school and special events.
- Large performances, events, weddings, and funerals may resume with an approved safety plan.
- All youth and family activities may resume with a safety plan in place, including nursery care, Worship & Wonder, and youth group.
- Office functions may resume as normal.
- MCUM Food Pantry donations can be dropped off at the church.
- Community groups and public building rentals may resume with an approved safety plan in place.
- Enhanced cleaning, sanitization, and safety protocols.

**(6/6/2020)**