



July 29, 2021

Greetings, Church!

Your church resumes in-person worship and gatherings on campus this Sunday, August 1! It will be wonderful to see you when you are ready to gather with others in-person for worship and other ministries. Like many of you, I have a mixture of emotions when it comes to regathering, from excitement to nervousness, and “we are all in this together” is as important a sentiment as ever. I have been so proud of this church these past 16 months. Thank you to the paid staff, servant volunteers, and dedicated church members who keep this church thriving! Here’s to our journey ahead with our great God! As we take our next steps, please bear a few things in mind...

1. **We have not thought of everything!** We are human, working our way through our first pandemic. Along the path to regathering, we continue to (re)discover pieces to sort out together. Some things are 100% in place, others are coming along, and still others aren’t there yet. Thank you for your generous complements and your gentle feedback as we continue forward.
2. **Regathering for in-person worship is an adjustment for everyone!** In the Sanctuary, you can’t change the thermostat, lighting, or volume (sorry, you can’t mute the sermon!). You will be with people you know and people you don’t know yet. Some elements will be familiar and comfortable, others new or different. We will all experience this to some degree; may we be in solidarity.
3. **The situation can always change.** The pandemic is not over and the headlines keep changing. It is possible we must stop in-person gatherings again later, a prospect that 89% of summer survey respondents said, “would be hard, yet I feel ‘safety first’ is the best move.” We continue to monitor guidelines from the Minnesota Annual Conference, MDH, and CDC. Nearly 96% of summer survey respondents said 100% of their households are vaccinated except those with direct medical instructions not to be vaccinated due to current personal health conditions and/or children who are too young for currently-available vaccines. That is encouraging data as a church.

The united worship service continues Sundays at 9:30 am. Here is the upcoming schedule:

DATE	IN-PERSON	YOUTUBE AND PHONE	FELLOWSHIP
Aug. 1	Sanctuary	Livestream	Outdoor Fellowship
Aug. 8	Richfield Bandshell	July 18 worship premiere	Outdoor Fellowship
Aug. 15	Sanctuary	Livestream	Outdoor Fellowship
Aug. 22	Sanctuary	Livestream	Outdoor Fellowship
Aug. 29	Sanctuary	Livestream	Outdoor Fellowship
Sept. 5	<i>Livestream Only!</i>	<i>Livestream Only!</i>	<i>Livestream Only!</i>
Sept. 12	Sanctuary	Livestream	Indoor Fellowship Begins

Please remember: worship on September 5 is only on YouTube and by touch tone phone! Campus is closed that day; please do not come to campus for in-person worship. You are encouraged to enjoy your holiday weekend and engage in the worship livestream for that Sunday, thank you.

To ease the church into wider use of the building, fellowship is “outdoors only” in August. If you wish to spend time with friends after worship, kindly walk out to the area in front of the main entry. Feel free to use a patio chair from the Narthex and return it when you are finished. Coffee will hopefully return later this fall as we move back to indoor fellowship. We will not serve food like donuts for the foreseeable future. We continue to seek safe hospitality solutions. We currently anticipate the Church Bus will be available for riders beginning August 15.

Worship features a wide variety of music. Starting September 12, the usual schedule will be: 1st Sundays - Organ/Choral Music; 4th Sundays - Living Waters Band; 2nd/3rd Sundays - Blended Music. This “3 on, 1 off” schedule gives worship a balanced and unique musical flavor. May we innovate with courage, honor tradition, and expand the ways we praise God through the gift of music. Worship leaders on the chancel will often be unmasked. **If you sing along, you must wear your mask.**

Please help make in-person worship a success with these guidelines. Wear your **name tag** to help (re)build community. Place **your offering** in the single plate at the rear of the Sanctuary upon arrival. The person at the end of each pew should **mark attendance** in the Welcome Pad. During **Sharing the Peace**, greet your neighbor with a mutual, consensual sign of peace. That means, “No, thank you, and God’s peace to you!” is a friendly and reasonable response to the question, “God’s peace to you, would you like to shake hands?” You may **light a conflux candle** before worship or when invited to during the Celebration Music. Please practice safety with fire, and use the provided hand sanitizer. **Holy Communion** is celebrated on 1st Sundays. You may gather and bring your own alcohol-free elements with care and delight, or take a single-serve juice and wafer kit available in the Sanctuary upon arrival. When invited, consume the elements while seated in your pew.

The mask policy on campus has been updated. Camps has three contexts: Sunday mornings, Caring for Children early learning center in the basement on weekdays, and the rest of the building on Mondays through Saturdays. This requires a nuanced, yet simple, policy. **Please bring your mask.**

On the first and second level, wear a mask if...

1. You are unvaccinated.
2. You are singing with others.
3. You are within 6’ of children under 12 years old.*
4. You are preparing/handling/serving food in the Kitchen.
5. You are in the CFC pick-up/drop-off areas (M-F, 6:30am-8:30am, 4:30pm-5:30pm)
6. You are vaccinated and prefer to wear a mask.

* Masking is optional for vaccinated parents/guardians with their own children for in-person worship/ministries and for vaccinated CFC staff transporting students through the building.

On the CFC basement level, wear a mask if...

1. You are unvaccinated.
2. You are in CFC areas during pick-up/drop-off times (M-F, 6:30am-8:30am, 4:30pm-5:30pm).
3. You are vaccinated and prefer to wear a mask.

The church office and campus are open. Operating hours are 8:00 am-4:00 pm, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The **Church Library** is open when the campus is open; come check out one of the new books. The latest issue of **The Upper Room devotional** is available on campus now. We are installing **video conferencing hardware** as soon as possible to enable hybrid gatherings. Team chairs and small group leaders are encouraged to speak with their groups about how and when to regather in-person on campus **after August 1**. Please note: **the main entrance is locked** during these open hours. There is a doorbell to the right of the main doors by the windows. Please press the button and have patience, this system is new to all of us! You may be asked to identify yourself over the intercom. You will be “buzzed in” or someone will come to the door.

We have waited this next phase for a long time. And it will take a while for the world to phase into more layers of stability and safety. For our part, we will face the future as we have faced these past 16 months: with grace, prayer, and hope. You are a great church; God bless you all!

In Christ,
Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

SUNDAY MORNING 2021 REGATHERING PHASES:

PHASE 0 - JUNE 6, 2021

Outdoor Worship: Jun. 13, Jul. 18



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 1 - AUGUST 1, 2021

Outdoor Worship: Aug. 8; Online-Only Worship: Sept. 5



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 2 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Update: Indoor Fellowship begins in Phase 2



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 3 - OCTOBER 3, 2021



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups

PHASE 4 - NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Online-Only Worship: Dec. 26



Online
Worship



In-Person
Worship



Outdoor
Fellowship



Indoor
Fellowship



Outdoor
Sunday
School



Indoor
Sunday
School



Nursery
Care



Small
Groups