

Updated COVID Protocols for FUMC

Effective Date 11/16/2021

Effective November 15, 2021, Stanislaus County health officials removed the indoor mask mandate. First United Methodist Church will be adhering to the following mask rules moving forward:

Mask Rules in Church Office (During Business Hours) – Updated as of 11/16/2021

Although there is no current mask mandate in place, First United Methodist Church will require masks to be worn inside the church office no matter your vaccination status. We value the health and safety of anyone that comes into our church building, especially our staff, so we ask that you please adhere to the decision that has been made. If you arrive at the church without a mask and need to go into the office, we will provide one to you. As always, we encourage you to monitor your health, and if you feel unwell, we ask that you do not come to the church until you are feeling better.

Mask Rules in Remainder of Church Building – Updated as of 11/16/2021

Vaccinated Individuals

Masks are **not** required for fully vaccinated individuals in most settings. Those that feel more comfortable can continue to wear masks if they choose. We will have masks on hand if you need one.

Unvaccinated Individuals

Must wear masks in all indoor public settings and should wear masks in a crowded outdoor setting with that region is experiencing high COVID transmission. Masks will be required to be worn by an individual while in the church at all times. This will include while participating in any church meetings, worship, etc. Individuals will also need to adhere to social distancing. If you arrive at the church and do not have your mask, we will provide one to you.

Exemptions to mask requirements

The following individuals are exempt from wearing masks at all times:

- Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

Tiny Tots Preschool – MASKS REQUIRED (No matter your vaccination status)

Our staff will always continue to wear masks until otherwise stated by the CA Department of Health, Stanislaus County, and Licensing. Any individual in the preschool area speaking with the teachers or around the children will need to continue to wear a mask. We recommend you bring your mask with

you if you are going to be in the preschool area; however, we will have masks onsite to provide to you if you need one.

Seating in the Sanctuary – Until Further Notice

We ask that when you arrive to the church that you continue to sit in every other pew instead of every pew.

Congregational Singing – Updated as of 11/16/2021

Beginning Sunday, November 21, we will allow singing during worship. Singing will be permitted with no masks on if you are vaccinated. For those that are unvaccinated, you will be required to wear a mask while singing.

Group Meetings – Updated as of 11/16/2021

We are happy to see that some of our groups are gathering again in person. However, we will continue to follow social distancing as much as possible inside the church. We may, at times, request to move your event to a different location within the church to accommodate social distancing spacing.

Please Note

We will be assessing the transmission and hospitalizations due to COVID along with county health officials. If there is a need to reinstate an indoor mask mandate, we will pass this information to you as soon as possible.