



Re-opening

FPC Marietta

FPC strives always to be a welcoming place with a safe and healthy environment for the congregation members, staff, and visitors.

During the current Covid-19 pandemic it has become necessary to set rules for building use. As the information about Covid-19 continues to evolve, these rules may be modified and updated as needed.

• In-Person worship services will begin on **Sunday, October 4**, as long as conditions related to Covid-19 indicate it is safe to do so. Sunday School Classes will begin meeting on-site in a later phase.

• We encourage those who are vulnerable based on age or medical condition to abide by CDC guidance and continue to worship virtually rather than attending in person. Regardless, if you are uncomfortable with in-person worship at this time, please be assured that virtual worship experiences will continue to be offered.

• Please stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness; if you have been exposed to anyone with Covid-19; or if you have travelled out of the country in the last 14 days.

Following are the current requirements (as of 9.20.2020) for gaining access to the buildings and facilities on our campus.

To see the full reopening and Building Use Rules go to:
www.fpcmarietta.org/connect/fpc-forms/

INDOOR GATHERINGS

applies to worship, small group meetings

Everyone entering the building will be required to register at the front desk or other designated location.

Masks or cloth face coverings will be required while indoors. If you do not have a face covering, the church will have some available.

Attendees must maintain a 6-foot distance from those outside their household. This includes:

- Maintaining 6-foot distance while entering and exiting the building
- No physical contact (hugging, shaking hands, elbow bumps, etc.)
- Seating of at least a six-foot radius per household. Seating for worship will be managed by the deacons.
- Special instructions for flow of people (i.e., entering and exiting) to avoid person-to-person contact.

FPC will encourage minimal contact with “high-touch surfaces” and provide options for cleaning hands. We plan to:

- Prop doors open to avoid touching handles.
- Remove offering plates, hymnals, and other shared items.
- Provide “no-touch” offering boxes. Online giving will be encouraged.

No coffee, food, or water will be served, and water fountains will be roped off. Feel free to bring your own drinks in a spill-proof container. If possible, please refrain from drinking beverages in the Great Hall during worship.

Hand-sanitizer stations will be provided at key locations around the building.

FPC will follow CDC guidelines for disinfecting our facility. This includes:

- Regular disinfecting of high touch point areas throughout the building.
- Disinfecting high-touch surfaces in the Great Hall between services.

Restroom use will be restricted to the large restrooms located on the main floor of the Gathering Space and second floor near the offices. Only two people may use the restroom at the same time, and this will be monitored.

Elevator use will be restricted to one person at a time, unless with members of the same household. Those needing assistance should have one caregiver only.

Indoor meetings must be scheduled by completing a Facilities Request Form, and submitting it to the Ministry/Calendar Coordinator for approval. Room set-ups will be done to meet physical distancing requirements and may not be re-arranged.

OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

Outdoor meetings must be scheduled by completing a Facilities Request Form and submitting it to the Ministry/Calendar Coordinator for approval. Physical distancing requirements pertain to areas outside the church buildings.

Except for Weekday Preschool and Club 3:30, the playground will remain closed for purposes of health and safety.

Masks are encouraged while outside on church property if wearer is not alone.

WORSHIP IN-PERSON WILL BE LIMITED TO ONE FOURTH OF THE CONGREGATION EACH SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

In order to give every member of the church who wishes to worship in-person an equal opportunity to do so under the limitations of Covid-19 protocols, we will be inviting one quarter of the Neighborhood Groups to worship together one Sunday per month.

Invitations will be sent by email to members of the designated Neighborhood Groups beginning Sunday afternoon the week before that group's turn to attend in-person worship. Reservations are required by noon on Wednesday before the Sunday service. Then, whatever spots may remain open, not taken by members of the designated Neighborhood Groups, will be made available to the congregation at-large from Wednesday afternoon until Friday at noon.

Example: Members of the First Quadrant of Neighborhood Groups will receive an email invitation on Sunday, September 27. They will have until noon on Wednesday, September 30 to submit their reservation for attending the 11am in-person worship on Sunday, October 4. If there are spots still available after the initial invitation, other members of the congregation or community may then reserve spots using the reservation forms on the website, until all seats have been taken. Reservations will close by noon on Friday, or when all the spots have been reserved. Phone registration will be available for those unable to register online.

Only individuals/families with reservations will be allowed to attend the service and deacons will check off your names from the reservation list as you arrive for the service. For health and safety reasons, we are limiting attendance to a fixed number to allow for proper physical distancing. If you try to "drop-in" without a reservation, you will be asked to watch the virtual service from the comfort of your home.

WHAT QUADRANT AM I IN? HOW WILL I KNOW?

Communications will be coming out to everyone who has been assigned to a Neighborhood Group, indicating their quadrant, and when your group will be invited to make a reservation for in-person worship.

WHAT IF I'M NOT IN A NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP?

If you have not been assigned to a Neighborhood Group yet, please contact BeccaYan@fpcmarietta.org to confirm or to be assigned to a group. She can also connect you to your group leader, if you have not already had direct contact.

I'M A VISITOR, NOT A MEMBER. HOW DO I GET INTO A GROUP?

If you are not on our official rolls, you may not have been assigned to a group. Please contact BeccaYan@fpcmarietta.org and she will add you to a group. If you would like to join the church, you may contact russellbdavis@aol.com for more information.

I'M NOT READY TO COME BACK. DO I HAVE TO RSVP?

If you are still concerned about getting together in groups, have an underlying condition which puts you at risk for contracting Covid-19, or are in a high-risk age group, you are not required to RSVP that you are not coming to in-person worship. Nor are you required to attend at any time. Be assured that the high quality virtual programming you have enjoyed these past several months will still be shared on Sundays at 8:30 and 11am, as well as many of the mid-week virtual programs which have been developed over the course of the pandemic.

WORSHIP MODIFICATIONS

- Children and youth under 18 years will worship with their parents (we will not provide a nursery or Children's Church).
- The number of people attending any one service needs to be limited to a safe number, so we are asking for RSVPs for each service in the initial phases.
- During in-person worship, there will be no passing of friendship pads, offering plates; no bulletins, hymnals or Bibles provided (you are welcome to bring your own from home); and no processions. The FPC Marietta App provides digital access to bulletins and online giving.
- Congregational singing, choral anthems, and passing of the peace will be modified in the interest of health and safety.
- Communion will be offered each Sunday in October at the in-person service.

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

Sunday worship will continue to be offered via live-streaming at 8:30 and 11am.

Small groups, Sunday School classes, committees, and councils may continue to meet via ZOOM.

To schedule ZOOM meetings for your group, please contact SusanPalacios@fpcmarietta.org.

