

Returning to In-Person Worship

The Administrative Council is preparing for returning to in-person worship. This decision, the timing and conditions that will make it possible, was again discussed at length in the February 15th meeting.

Our decision is to follow the guidance of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, which clearly identifies three stages of safety and two metrics for each stage (vaccination rates and viral transmission rates). We are using Ozaukee County statistics, not statewide statistics, to measure our progress. Our decision for a date to resume face-to-face worship is based on local progress toward these conditions. These are illustrated in the table below.

UNSAFE TO GATHER	MAKE IT SAFER	SAFEST
Vaccination rates <50%	Vaccination rates 50-70+%	Vaccination rates 70-85+%
Viral Transmission ♦ Cases >10/100K ♦ Positive Tests >10%	Viral Transmission ♦ Cases 5-10/100K ♦ Positive Tests <10%	Viral Transmission ♦ Cases <1/100K ♦ Positive Tests <5%

Currently Ozaukee County Conditions as of 4/29/21

- Vaccination Rate is 39.1% Fully Vaccinated, 50.8% At least One Dose
- Viral Transmission is 8.3 Cases/100K Positive Tests are 8.0%

The Wisconsin Council of Churches provides guidance for returning to face-to-face worship in a similar three stage graph. The Administrative Council has formed a task force to prepare for returning to face-to-face worship following these guidelines and other local considerations for our CUMC congregation.

UNSAFE	MAKE IT SAFER	SAFEST
All at once Unmasked No distancing Full capacity Assembly singing Eating together	♦ Face masks mandatory ♦ Physical distancing ♦ Low-touch environment ♦ Outdoors or increased air exchange ♦ Shortened time of service ♦ Singing by worship leaders only ♦ Focus on sanitizing high-touch surfaces ♦ Sign-in / attendance list	♦ All of the “make it safer” plus no or minimized singing ♦ Hybrid, phased plan ♦ Wait 1 month+ between phases ♦ Fallback plan for outbreaks ♦ Communication plan ♦ Team responsibility

We yearn to safely return to in-person worship soon. We are hoping that the 50% vaccination rate will be achieved in Ozaukee County by Easter. As our task force prepares for this, we are also taking into consideration the safety of ministry staff and musicians who would be required to be in attendance.

The choice of a date to reopen and conditions for reopening is an Administrative Council decision. Please watch the church web site for updates and Ozaukee County vaccination and transmission rates.