



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Worship Updates

Given the importance of worship in these changing times, church leadership is hard at work to create opportunities that are authentic, safe, and connected. Even as we increase the number of opportunities to gather for in-person worship, we remain committed to live streaming weekly worship to ensure that everyone can attend.

We know that there are varied thoughts on how wide and how quickly we should regather. The approach of the Regathering Committee has been to rely upon reported numbers and corresponding guidance from a variety of sources. These sources include our denomination, medical bodies like Johns Hopkins University, the CDC, and information portals like the [New York Times](#). As certain benchmarks are met, we will gradually regather more fully. We invite each person to respond in ways that feel safe for them and that keep one another safe too.

At the current time, all gathered worship will require a few things:

- Advance Registration
- Masks/Face Coverings for all people regardless of vaccination status
- Physical distancing

Outdoor Worship

Gathered on the lawn in front of the church on the SECOND and FOURTH Sundays of each month, this service welcomes up to 100 people. Markers will be spaced on the lawn to provide safe distancing. You may bring your own chairs or request them to be available when you register. With a strong amplification system, those who desire even greater distance will find plenty of room to spread out. All the traditional elements of worship will be present in ways that suit the outdoor environment. This service will also be streamed to the broader community. Register on-line [HERE](#).

DATES IN MAY: May 9 (Mother's Day) and May 23 (Annual Meeting Sunday)

Indoor Worship

Gathered inside the Sanctuary, on the FIRST, THIRD, and FIFTH Sundays of each month, these services welcome smaller numbers of people for our traditionally streamed service. Given guidelines and numbers, currently **all guests for this worship must be fully vaccinated**. We are currently assembling the information regarding the vaccination status of worship leaders and will share on the registration form.

Currently we are limiting attendance to a total of five to ten people with a preference for those who benefit from being at worship or who face technological challenges in streaming. If you would like to attend, please contact Pastor Brent or Will and they will talk you through it and get you signed up.

Beginning May 30, we anticipate allowing larger numbers to begin attending. We will send out more information as soon as we are able. We anticipate numbers still being relatively small (somewhere between twenty and thirty people) and anticipate a continuing requirement for vaccination. Once transmission numbers decrease, we will be able to allow vaccinated and unvaccinated people to attend.

Thank you for your support, your patience, and your feedback as we continue to be church in these times so full of both opportunity and challenge.