

UCC Phase Two Reopening
7-14-2020
COVID Task Force

The First UCC Covid Phased plan is based on several principles that guide our decision making. The first is that no in-person gathering is completely safe. Second, we know that church gatherings have been shown to spread the disease and that singing and reading aloud are vectors to spread the virus. We also know that outside gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings, yet the recommended number of people in any given environment is always an estimate. Finally, we know that masks, adequate ventilation, and distance can help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

We are cautiously moving to the next phase in our plan at this point, though we do so with the understanding that the local situation may require us to move back to phase one. Below is the full description of Phase Two – including the criteria that are necessary to stay in this phase, the specific expectations, and a covenant to guide our interactions with each other. Groups and committees interested in using church space for gatherings may do so following the expectations outlined here. To schedule a gathering in the next two weeks, contact [Pastor Wendy](#) or [Pastor Lauren](#). After July 28, if we are still in Phase Two, you may contact Office Manager [Gladys Ehn](#) for scheduling.

Gating Criteria for “Phase Two” – Limited in-person gatherings

The following criteria must be met and maintained for First UCC to stay in “Phase Two”.

- Statewide stay-at-home order lifted
- 4-week reduction in cases at the county level
- Adequate access to protective equipment and supplies (e.g. masks, wipes, hand sanitizer)
- Risk assessment for gatherings of 10 people in Rice County <20% as determined by the following tool: <https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu/>

Expectations:

- On-line worship only
- Gatherings of 50 people permitted outdoors (non-family groups maintain 6-foot separation, masks required)
- Building closed except for scheduled events
- Gatherings of up to 15 people permitted in assembly room or sanctuary only (all other areas of the building will remain off limits – including the kitchen and office – except for essential use by staff)
- Singing, brass and wind instruments are not permitted (except for worship recording, with extra distance observed)
- Gatherings limited to 60 minutes
- Restrooms limited to one user at-a-time with surface cleaning expected following use

- Hard surfaces must be wiped at the conclusion of the gathering
- No overlapping events, 30 minute passing time between events
- Gatherings must be scheduled with church staff
- All gathering participants must adhere to the First UCC-Covid Covenant

First UCC-Covid Covenant

As an open and affirming, just peace congregation, we are committed to providing safe and inclusive environments for connection and community. As such, we agree to abide by the following:

- All gatherings will have accommodations in place for those who choose not to attend in person
- All building occupants must adhere to a 6-foot distance from others and wear face coverings – except for those who must remove face coverings for worship music recording purposes
- Participants who are not feeling well or who are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 will not attend in person gatherings
- Participants who have been exposed in the last 14 days to anyone who is ill or who has tested positive for COVID will not attend any in person gatherings
- All participants must provide their current contact information to the organizer of the gathering (information will remain confidential unless required by public health officials)

We do so as a compassionate community, with deep love for God and one another.