

2021 Reopening Guidelines and Protocols
Vermillion United Church of Christ
May 2021

We are excited to re-open our church building for in-person gatherings beginning with Sunday morning worship on May 16, 2021 at 10:30 am.

Our goal is to start this process slowly and carefully so that we can continue to be both a safe and welcoming community. We continue to follow CDC guidelines and recommendations. We believe reopening will be a gradual and evolving process that we update continually. *As the summer progresses and we learn and experience more, we hope to be able to begin to release some of these protocols.*

We will continue to share each service remotely online via Facebook and YouTube, as well as our audio calling-service for those who are not comfortable joining us in-person or not comfortable with these protocols.

Gathering

On Sunday mornings, each entrance to the building will be a welcome station. This station will include hand-sanitizer, extra masks for those who have forgotten, a posted list of these protocols, and a simple bulletin. Deacons and ushers will be present to welcome and answer questions.

Masks

Masks will be required of all people over the age of three when we are gathered inside the building. When we are gathered outside the building (which we hope to often do this summer), masks will be encouraged (especially when singing) but not required.

Safe Distancing

We will ask all people to remain a safe distance (3-6 feet) from those not in their own family while in the building. Seating for worship will be generally designated, spacing within each row and skipping every other pew. At the end of our time inside, people will be invited to exit the building in all directions, leaving time and space for safety. Deacons and ushers will be on hand to help.

Music

Our organist or pianist will provide service music throughout the worship. A member of our music team or choir will provide singing throughout the service. There will be no congregation singing inside the building. We hope to end each service by going out to the peace garden to sing a blessing together before we part.

Congregational Prayers

We will say the Lord's Prayer and other congregational litanies together.

Children and infants

Children are welcome to join us for worship. Minimum age for a mask is three years old. There will NOT be a nursery. There will be a children's story, but children will remain with their families for this time.

Handshakes, peace, offering and Communion

We will share peace and blessings during the service though not through human contact. Offerings will not be collected but may be shared in baskets by the doors as people exit. Communion will be shared outside during the first Sunday of each month. Members are encouraged to bring their own elements, but safe pre-packaged elements will also be available.

Coffee HI

There will be no coffee HI (or food shared) following worship, but people are invited to remain in the garden following our final blessing and share fellowship if they feel comfortable.

These protocols will be re-evaluated weekly through the summer.