

FUMC Fellowship Activities

Fellowship at FUMC ranges from large group events to volunteerism to informal gatherings of friends. Fellowship takes place in multiple settings. We encourage mindful fellowship in its many forms and settings within the following guidelines:

- Individuals who wish to engage in fellowship in any form must accept the risk of possible exposure to disease by an unknowing fellow participant. The virus typically has a lengthy asymptomatic phase before symptoms appear. Also, we know that many people are infected and never have any symptoms whatsoever.
- Physical interactions between people should follow the protocols mentioned elsewhere in this document. No gatherings can exceed numeric restrictions set forth by current IDPH guidelines and our calculated thresholds for social distancing intrinsic to various areas of the building. Please consult the maximum capacity of each room listed in Appendix B. Fellowship outside the church building, such as in a private home, should be carefully arranged to limit attendance capacity to maintain appropriate distancing.
- In general, any fellowship outdoors is safer than indoors. The virus is primarily spread by respiratory droplets, which are quickly dispersed and therefore less infectious outdoors. Outdoor fellowship that also incorporates distancing, masking, hand hygiene and self-awareness carries minimal risk of transmission.
- Fellowship inside the church building must adhere to the limitations outlined in other sections of this document. Distancing, masking, hand hygiene, logging your presence within the building, and attention to other specific expectations is essential. Anyone who refuses to observe these fundamentals may be asked to leave by staff or ushers or may not be able to participate in future events.
- The pandemic makes us fearful of the unknown. A sense of chaos sets in and we naturally seek worship and fellowship to see our way forward. We must remain tolerant and compassionate to the range of individual fear of the virus. At the same time, we must tolerate and embrace the essential social needs we have as human beings.
- All attendees of fellowship activities will be required to adhere to the personal guidelines as outlined in Section 1 of this document.
- Fellowship groups that wish to gather in-person will be requested to submit gathering proposals to designated Church staff outlining how their intended gathering will meet safely. This applies to any official FUMC group that would use Church facilities or resources and also off-site gatherings.
 - An example proposal can be seen in the Appendix C
 - Fellowship groups that submit acceptable proposals will have their meetings listed in the Church calendar, fliers, and related documents.
 - Groups that do not submit proposals do so outside the officially supervised efforts of the Church. We encourage fellowship, but the Church is not responsible for contact tracing needs that might arise from an unofficial gathering.



- Church staff will review proposals relative to the protocols outlined in this document and communicate the outcome in a mutually acceptable and timely fashion.

