



First Congregational - Christian Church

638 HIGH STREET AT UNION POST OFFICE BOX 6012 MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36106

PHONE: (C) 334-262-1887

November 12, 2021

Greetings in Christ!

I trust you are doing well and staying healthy in these challenging times.

As you know, our church has faced tremendous challenges over the past months as we have done our best to navigate the pandemic. Doubtless, all the decisions we've made have not been perfect, but we have tried to seek the mind of God and sought His wisdom.

Like you, I'm hoping for a bit of "normal" to return this Fall and Winter, but like you, I have no idea what these months will hold.

There's a saying we have heard over the past few months, and it's this; "we're in this together." Every time I've heard that I've thought to myself that while we may be in it together, that "together" includes the realization we need to try to accomplish that six-feet apart!

This kind of thinking goes so against what the church of Jesus Christ is all about. Of all people, we should be appreciative of the fact that we are "better together," but then again, we are reminded on a daily basis not to be "too together."

If there's ever a time, we need the fellowship and love of one another, it's this day we live in! For a few months, we knew what it was like to feel "quarantine," and quite frankly, we were not happy!

Anyway, we are gathering back together, and this is something we need to do as the body of Christ! We need each other for both emotional and spiritual support. We are returning the **3rd Sunday, November 21st., for Sunday School at 9:45 and Church Service at 11:00 a.m.**, see the proposed Covid Management plan included in this letter for detailed directives for returning to the Sanctuary.

While many may not be quite ready to get back to church physically, I would encourage you to stay connected as much as possible, even if it's online church, we are working on sharing the Sunday Service with you.

We have heard it many times even before this pandemic, but we are reminded once again... "the church is not a building." While this is true, there is something quite

compelling about meeting together. I pray we never get used to this idea and call it “the new normal,” especially in light of serving Him.

Please make a special effort to attend Church on the 21st of November. We have a lot to be thankful for and it’s time to Celebrate!

You are loved!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M. Forniss". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Moderator Forniss

**First Congregational Christian Church
Montgomery, Alabama**

**PROPOSED COVID MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR RESUMPTION
WORSHIP AND OTHER ON-SITE ACTIVITIES**

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, we have observed the highest safety precautions, including the cessation of in-person worship. The development of effective vaccines, the decrease in the incidence of COVID cases and deaths, and our congregants' compliance with sanctioned medical protocols now warrant our resumption of in-person worship and other activities in our sanctuary. The following protocol will govern our resumption of services until further notice.

1. Our Values

We believe that fellowship among Christians is vital to enhancing our Faith, spreading the gospel, and inspiring us to honor and follow the will of our Lord and Savior. However, we embrace our moral obligation to protect and serve each other. In our Statement of Faith, we acknowledge that God "calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men."

2. Entry

Enter the church through one or two doors: the double doors on the North side / High Street, or the single door on the West side, from the parking lot.

3. Contact Tracing*

When you enter the church, ushers will distribute a card for you to indicate your name, telephone number, email address, and seat location. Return the card to an usher after the service has concluded and before you leave the sanctuary. The purpose of the cards is to permit FCCC to conduct efficient contact tracing in the unfortunate event that a congregant develops COVID symptoms. The further purpose is to prevent contacts with persons who were not seated near the person(s) who ultimately show symptoms.

4. Masks

Cover your face with a mask before you leave your car (or if walking, before you enter the church). Keep the mask in place until you return to your car. If you do not have a mask, masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances.

5. Temperature Checks

Submit to a temperature check at each entrance. If you do not feel well or have a fever, please remain at home.

6. Offering and Communion

Please drop your offering (envelopes and cash) in designated containers at the entry doors to avoid close contact with ushers and passing collection plates from person to person. Envelopes will be available at the entrances. On first Sundays, please collect your pre-wrapped packets for observance of Eucharist at the door upon entering the sanctuary - for the same purposes.

7. Seating

Go directly to your seat immediately upon entering. You may seat yourself in designated, open seating. Open seating is pre-designated on every other row to assure social distancing. Couples or families wishing to sit together may do so, even in non-designated areas, but groups should assure that they are seated at an appropriate distance from other worshipers (at least six feet on the same pew).

8. Fellowship

Avoid hugging, embracing, and otherwise touching other congregants before, during and after worship and other services. All fellowship during the worship service is discontinued until further notice. Unless you are participating in the service or need to use the facilities, do not leave your seat during the service.

9. Benediction

Ushers will dismiss congregants by sections and rows to the nearest exit to safeguard social distancing.



***Depending on the attendance for the first three Sundays, it's possible a few adjustments will be made.**