

## SPRING AND SUMMER 2021: GATHERINGS AT CHURCH

Friends, with gladness and with care, we are moving toward re-opening our beloved church home to on-site in-person gatherings. As we have all along, WBUUC will continue to follow the guidance of science and err on the side of extending the greatest care to those most impacted by the pandemic. The guidelines from state and local health authorities inform the steps we're taking to protect our physical health. These guidelines below will guide us as we attend to our relational and spiritual selves within our covenanted community:

### **courage, reverence, compassion**

- **We are a multigenerational community.** Some among us are unable to be vaccinated against COVID-19, and we will continue to engage in safer practices - masks and distancing - to protect the most vulnerable among us.
- **We are committed to inclusion.** If an in-person experience is not fully accessible for some reason, we will try to create and support ways folks can participate online or remotely.
- **We extend hospitality.** We welcome all into the space, whether virtual or physical. We lead with "yes," and make room.
- **We extend grace to each other, early, often, and excessively.** We are returning to in-person opportunities gradually and carefully, while creating avenues of engagement for those who cannot be present in person. This is difficult and complex work, and it is not work that we have done before. We will lead with our hearts. Our care and compassion for each other will be at the forefront and we will be extraordinarily gentle with each other.

With these principles guiding us, we are excited to share our current plans for the spring and summer at church, knowing that new information will prompt new decisions as we go, and that flexibility remains essential. Our congregation is in the midst of multiple simultaneous transitions right now: we are not only developing new ways to gather as pandemic restrictions are loosened, but also navigating the departure of beloved staff and excitement about our new Interim Lead Minister. Let's be patient with one another.

To celebrate and protect our beloved and inclusive multigenerational community, masks and distancing will continue for all on-site gatherings. Participants must register online (in "Breeze") for all onsite gatherings, and agree to honor our current best practices for health and safety.

### On-Site and in-person Summer Gatherings

- **Courtyard Gatherings** – outdoor gatherings featuring the Flower Communion, led by worship staff
- **Sunday Circle Round Gatherings** – weekly gatherings indoors with ministry and other staff, at 4 pm each Sunday in the Atrium (come as often as you like!)
- **Small Groups** – Contact Anna Gehres if your small group would like to meet inside the building
- **Small weddings and memorial services**
- **Committees** – Contact Anna Gehres if your committee wishes to resume meetings in the building

Sunday services Our plan is to continue Sunday worship on **Zoom only** through the summer; this may change in August.

June 6 Final sermon from our current Lead Minister  
June 13 Choral celebration (at 10:00 am) and Annual Meeting (at 11:15 am)  
June 20-August 1 Shorter, simplified services hosted by Victoria with a stellar array of beloved guest ministers and leaders: Luke Stevens Royer, David Schwartz, Kristen Maier, Nico Van Ostrand, Laura Smidzik, Rod Richards, Kristen Stone

August 8-Labor Day tbd as new Interim Lead Minister begins