

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Great news: We're returning to indoor worship! After 86 Sundays (86!) of not being able to gather safely, we are going to return to worship together indoors. We're looking forward to welcoming you back into the sanctuary **beginning November 7th**.

In order to keep everyone safe and comfortable, we'll have some restrictions in place. The Re-Opening Team, following the guidance of our Bishop and Cabinet, has put the following restrictions in place for the safety of our congregation and community.

- **We will limit ourselves to 50 people in the building, which will mean that not everyone will be able to attend worship each week. See the below for the reservation request process we'll use to safely and fairly maintain our congregation size.**
- **Masks will be required of everyone in the building, regardless of vaccination status.**
- **We'll maintain physical distancing inside the building. We're asking you to forgo hugs and handshakes.**
- **Food and drink are prohibited indoors, including Communion elements. There will not be Communion offered in worship.**
- **There will be no congregational singing, and there may be no live singing (like a soloist or the choir) for many of our Sunday worship services.**

All of these restrictions will mean that our worship will be different than what we're used to. This is not a perfect plan, and it's not the final one. We expect that as the infection rates decline, and as more and more of our community get vaccinated, we'll be able to return to gatherings that look more like they did prior to the pandemic.

If you're not yet comfortable returning to in-person worship, we understand. Our live stream worship will continue to be a way to participate with our congregation on Sundays (or any time). Additionally, our Sanctuary is open during the week (Mondays 12:00-2:00, and Wednesdays 10:00-12:00) for personal prayer and reflection. And, of course, many of our small groups are meeting – some in person, and some in a hybrid model with some people gathering in person and others virtually. We encourage to be part of a small group as a way of connecting with one another.

We want you to know how much we appreciate your patience and flexibility over these last 20 months. Your grace has been remarkable and such a gift to your pastors, the church staff, and to the leadership of our congregation.

We're looking forward to gathering together soon!

In Christ,

Pastors Clay and Jorge
and the HUMC Re-Opening Team

WORSHIP RESERVATION REQUEST PROCESS

You can submit attendance requests for the Sundays of November when you would like to attend worship. We prefer that requests be made online, but phone requests will be accepted for those who cannot access the online system.

To access the online Request Form click here: <https://forms.gle/s5JfHnzjpAD8RBg27>

If you are unable to access the online form, please call the church office (503-640-1775), Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00.

Requests will be made by household. When you make a request, you're making it for your whole family who plan to attend, whether that's one person, or nineteen.

The Reservation Request deadlines for the Sundays in November:

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>RSVP Request Deadline</u>
Nov. 7	Noon, Monday, Nov. 1
Nov. 14	Noon, Monday, Nov. 8
Nov. 21	Noon, Monday, Nov. 15
Nov. 28	Noon, Monday, Nov. 22

Since we anticipate more people will want to attend in person than we have space to accommodate, we will randomly select those who will attend.

You will be notified by the Tuesday or Wednesday prior to each Sunday if your request has been confirmed. (For example, on November 2nd or 3rd, we will notify those whose names were selected for worship on November 7th.) If you do not get a confirmation from the church, you are asked to participate by tuning in to the live stream worship at home. Only those who receive a confirmation call, text or email should attend in person worship.

Once you've had a confirmed reservation, your name will go to the bottom of the request list for the other Sundays that you have also requested. That means that the longer it has been since you've been in worship, the more likely you are to be able to attend.

In November, we'll let you know about how to make reservation requests for December Sunday worship. We're working on a different plan for Christmas Eve, with the hope of accommodating as many people in person as we reasonably can.

Once this process is established, we expect that most of us will be able to attend in person worship about once every three weeks. That number will depend on how many folks want to attend, of course.

More information on the below...

A couple of additional notes:

Please only make requests for the Sundays you would be able to attend. If you request a Sunday and your name is selected, you will go to the end of the request list whether or not you actually attend worship. (We know that unexpected things happen, and in those cases, please contact the church office as soon as possible so we can try to accommodate your changes.)

This is NOT a perfect system, but we hope it is fair to as many people as possible. Please be patient with us as we learn how to make this process work well.

SUMMARY: THE RESERVATION REQUEST PROCESS

BEGINNING OCTOBER 26, YOU CAN MAKE A REQUEST TO ATTEND WORSHIP FOR ANY OF THE FOUR SUNDAYS OF NOVEMBER. THERE IS AN ONLINE OPTION (<https://forms.gle/s5JfHnzjpAD8RBg27>), BUT YOU CAN ALSO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 503-640-1775.

YOU CAN MAKE A REQUEST FOR AS MANY SUNDAYS AS YOU LIKE, BUT NOT ALL OF YOUR REQUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO BE MET.

WE WILL CONTACT YOU TO LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR RESERVATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. PLEASE ONLY PLAN TO ATTEND WORSHIP IF YOU'VE BEEN CONTACTED.

OUR ONLINE WORSHIP (ON YOUTUBE) WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE.

ONCE YOU HAVE ATTENDED WORSHIP IN PERSON, YOUR NAME WILL MOVE TO THE END OF THE RESERVATION LIST SO THAT OTHERS MAY ATTEND WORSHIP IN PERSON AS WELL.

IN NOVEMBER, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER.