

What to expect at First Congregational United Church of Christ on Jul 9, 2023.

Logistics and accessibility

Address is 700 Poyntz Ave. There is a small parking lot available. There is also street parking and some will park across the street at the bank.

Service starts at 10:45 AM. We do not have Sunday school classes available in the summer. There are two doors you may enter from. They are both south facing- one says "office" by the door and is just off the parking lot, right by the bike rack. The other is further east and closer to Poyntz. The one off the parking lot will take you through a lobby area and the sanctuary is to your right and will enter in the front of the sanctuary. The one near Poyntz will take you into a small room just outside the sanctuary and will enter in the back of the sanctuary. There will be greeters at both doors to welcome you. The door off the parking lot is fully accessible, there are wheelchairs available if you need one. We also have hearing assistance devices available, please ask the usher if you require any of this assistance.

We have both a main level and balcony. Most congregants sit in the main level of the church, but the balcony will also be available (the balcony tends to be a popular spot for youth to sit!). The balcony can also be a good option for those who prefer more physical distancing.

Restrooms

Restrooms are available on every level of the building. The main level (where the sanctuary is located) has restrooms through the double doors outside the kitchen, there are also restrooms upstairs, which is accessible by stairs or elevator. In the basement are two all-gender, single stall restrooms. If you need an area to change your child, there are changing tables in the two restrooms on the main floor as well as in the nursery (go up the stairs or elevator, go through the double doors, and you'll see it directly ahead.)

Options for kids

Our service starts with opening music, followed by a call to worship, opening hymn, and other recitations. We then have a "Passing of the Peace" where you are able to greet anyone you'd like to in the sanctuary, or feel free to stay where you are. During this time children of all ages are invited to come forward to prepare for the "Word for Children" which is a part of our service for the children to hear a short lesson along with the rest of the congregation to connect to the lesson for the morning. Children should also feel welcome to listen from where they are sitting with their families if they prefer.

After Word for Children, children of all ages are invited to go with Brandy if they would like. Birth through age 3 will be taken to the church nursery which is staffed by a paid staff who've passed background checks and are CPR/first aid certified. 3 year olds through 5th grade will come with Brandy to the Sunday School room for a fun activity (both options are open to 3 year olds

depending on what works best for that particular child). We will be making “Creation Windows” which are frames they can decorate then use when exploring nature to appreciate the creation around them. Children are also welcome to stay in the sanctuary with their families and wiggles are always welcome. There is also a “Prayground” area in the back of the sanctuary which is a space with quiet toys and activities along with adult sized chairs for children who wish to stay with their families but require a more developmentally appropriate space. There are also busy bags available with toys and activities, the tags show the ages each bag has been designed for. These can be found at the front entrance or in the Prayground. Please return these when the worship is over.

Brandy will bring the older children back to the sanctuary before the end of the service. Infants and toddlers will be waiting in the nursery, which is up the stairs from the lobby, through the double doors, and straight ahead. Don't hesitate to ask Brandy for help finding it!

If you have any specific questions regarding children's options, please don't hesitate to reach out to Brandy at brandy@uccmanhattan.org.

After worship we have fellowship hour in Pioneer-Blachly which can be found on the other side of the lobby (just follow the treat-seeking children!)