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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the history of The Gathering Place?

The Gathering Place is a new building to serve community needs for small and large gatherings. In 2016, Lummi Island Congregational Church started dreaming about a modern facility that meets health and accessibility codes and raised money from private individuals and foundations to completely fund the construction. The grand opening was on September 16, 2023.

What is the connection between The Gathering Place and Lummi Island Congregational Church?

Legally, The Gathering Place is located on church property and is not a separate entity from the Church. An all-volunteer board of directors, with a majority of members who are not church members, are responsible for developing policies, maintenance, and operation. All financial accounting for The Gathering Place is transparent and totally kept separate from Church finances. Functionally, one of the primary purposes is to serve the wider community and island residents.

This is an exciting, new concept. We do not know of another community and church that has a “shared” building like ours. The Gathering Place is available to all regardless of race, sexual orientation, religion, or beliefs. The Gathering Place is for the community’s use, your personal/private use, and the church’s use. So let’s use it!

What are the quick details?

The Gathering Place is a spacious hall with a commercial kitchen that can accommodate 190 people for your event; about 100 people if seated using tables. It also has a small meeting/office space for a variety of uses, including private health and wellness uses with a separate entrance and ADA restroom.

Where is it located?

The Gathering Place is located at 3913 Legoe Bay Road, behind the 1909 historic church building.

Who can use The Gathering Place? What events or activities are possible?

The building is available to anyone. Private individuals, non-profits, schools, businesses, clubs, and organizations are welcome to gather in this inviting space. Weddings, funerals, private parties, receptions, retreats, trainings, classes, health and wellness activities, fundraisers, concerts, or workshops are just a few possibilities.

What activities are currently scheduled for The Gathering Place?

Some of the regular, ongoing activities of Lummi Island Congregational Church will be in The Gathering Place, including the Elderberries senior program every Wednesday, Parish Dinners once a month, Yoga once a week, family movie night, and drop-in coffee times. The commercial kitchen is rented by a private party on a regular basis, and Whatcom County holds monthly WCFAC meetings. Anyone can schedule a one-time event or an ongoing meeting or event.

How do I schedule my event and rent The Gathering Place?

Contact the office to schedule your date. Review the Facility Use Policy and complete a Rental Agreement and Liability Waiver. Pay the appropriate fee and damage deposit.

What about the use of the commercial kitchen?

The Gathering Place includes a full commercial kitchen. The kitchen and main hall may be rented together or separately. Use of the kitchen requires a walk thru and equipment training session. If an event is open to the public OR if guests are charged, a food permit is required from Whatcom County Health Department. Private events are exempt from permit requirements if there is no charge for food (e.g., weddings, private parties, potlucks). No permit is required for prepackaged foods. **FOOD SERVICE PERMITS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RENTER.** Whatcom County Health Department, phone 360-778-6000.

Can we serve alcohol at our event?

Yes, alcohol may be served and consumed in a completely responsible manner during any event held by an individual or organization. **ALCOHOL PERMITS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RENTER.**

Contact information

More information, rental forms and fee schedules are available at The Gathering Place website www.ligatheringplace.com, by email info@ligatheringplace.com, or by phone 360-758-2060.