

Frequently Asked Questions relating to CSA 2020 Season

If you have additional questions not answered below, please email them to congregationalsummerassembly@gmail.com

The following questions have been updated as of 06/25/2020: Q14, Q15, Q21

The following questions have been updated as of 06/06/2020: Q1, Q3, Q5, Q8, Q13, Q17, Q25, Q27

Q 1. Will the Assembly Building, Office and Pilgrim Place be open?

No. Sadly, we are not able to safely offer programmed activities or open any CSA buildings. Ken Cox (Managing Director) and Elaine Walton (Office Manager) will be our only staff, to handle minimal administrative/community needs.

ALL CSA buildings will be closed including bathrooms. We are not equipped to maintain the frequency and standard of deep cleaning required to keep our buildings safe. [Click here to read the announcement on the website.](#)

Q 2. Will there be church services, and will the Meeting House be open?

There will be no church services this summer. It is not safe to congregate in a large group, especially as singing has been proven to spread the virus.

Q 3. Will we be able to use the Crystal Beach and playground?

The Crystal Lake beach will be open. There will be no lifeguards and appropriate signage will be posted that you swim at your own risk and follow state and local orders. The lifeline will be put in to keep boats from wandering into the area. The rafts and slide will not be put out, because we cannot control the social distancing requirements and number of people.

Availability of both the Crystal Lake and Lake Michigan playgrounds will be dependent on State of Michigan and local government orders. There will be signage indicating when they are closed. When open use at your own risk and follow state and local orders.

Please follow the waterfront rules published in the 2020 Assembly News, page 41:

- For this summer, all trash must be taken back to your cottage. No receptacles will be provided
- The firepit is the ONLY site on the Crystal Lake beach where a fire is permitted
- Dogs and other animals must not be brought onto the beach at any time
- No alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, smoking devices, marijuana or intoxicants derived from marijuana are to be used on any CSA common properties and beaches
- Radios are allowed only with personal earphones

Q 4. Can I use the CSA Lake Michigan beach?

No. There is no safe access to the lake. Erosion has made the bluff extremely steep and difficult to traverse. Staying off the bluff and dune now helps protect this area for the future.

Q 5. Can I use the tennis courts?

Yes. The Tennis Committee's research found evidence indicating that casual contact with surfaces (i.e., tennis balls, gates) in an outdoor environment seldom passes a sufficient viral load to cause a new infection of the coronavirus. Committee members have also communicated that other similar tennis clubs have opened all of their courts to its members for play while stipulating social distancing and other recommended protocols to minimize interpersonal contact.

Play at your own risk and please utilize the CSA tennis courts in a responsible manner that follows the State of Michigan Executive Orders and Benzie County Health Department guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. All 7 dedicated tennis court will be open for play - four Woods Courts, two Crystal Lake beach courts, and Lake Michigan court.

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Q 6. Will the Crystal View be open?

No, we will not open the Crystal View. We are not set up to handle social distancing and building cleanliness. We considered takeout only, but this is a discretionary expense and needs significant cash to buy start-up supplies. We have no data to understand if enough people would purchase takeout food to make a profit. We are also not comfortable that we can ensure the safety of our employees or the community.

Q 7. Can I buy CSA merchandise?

Not at this time. The Office will be closed, and this is another discretionary expense we cut to preserve our cash.

Q 8. Will there be operettas this year?

No, the operettas are cancelled this summer. The dates for the 2021 operettas are:

- Children's Operetta: "A Cray Cray Day at the CSA"
Tryouts - July 5, 2021 / Dress Rehearsal - July 16, 2021 / Children's Operetta - July 17, 2021
- Adult Operetta "Beauty and the Beast"
Tryouts - August 2, 2021 / Adult Operetta - August 13-14, 2021

The decision by the Directors was based on the casting of the adult operetta, Beauty and the Beast, last summer for this August 2020. The many cast members for the show will be available for August 2021. They have not had any discussion regarding the dates for 2022 season.

Q 9. What fees are being charged this year?

We are asking everyone to make voluntary contributions, if financially able:

- If you are at the CSA using the grounds, playing tennis or have your boat on the beach or dock, we ask you to pay \$33 per adult (over 18 years old), per week you are there, as well as the normal car, tennis and boat fees. We will be distributing car and boat stickers which should be displayed by those using the grounds and beach/dock to ensure they are identifiable as members of the CSA community. See Question 12 on how to get your stickers.
- If you are unable to come to the CSA this summer, we know it is a sad situation. But we hope you can still support our future. We request a voluntary donation of \$66 from each adult community member who had a privilege ticket in 2019. This represents two weeks of fees. This does not apply to the 450 Associate Members who already paid the \$66 fee earlier this year. Those payments are applied to this contribution. Many thanks to those who have paid.

Q 10. Why are we being charged fees if the CSA buildings are not open and there is no "program?"

We are asking for contributions from our community to help secure the financial viability of the CSA. With all CSA activities, events, and lessons suspended this summer for the safety of our community, we will not receive the summer fees that would normally cover the majority of our Fiscal Year 2020 expenses and would have been the source of the cash we need to pay our Fiscal Year 2021 out-of-season expenses.

Q 11. What fees are being charged this year?

Fees will be charged for automobiles, tennis, boats, mooring and motorboat dock fees.

Q 12. How do I pay my fees and get stickers for my car / boat?

Print out and complete the 2020 CSA Registration Form on the CSA website by clicking on this link [CSA 2020 Registration Form](#). Mail it with your check payable to the Congregational Summer Assembly at 2128 Pilgrim Highway, Frankfort, MI 49635-9247.

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During the period June 22 through August 21, Elaine Walton, Office Manager, will be available at the Assembly building outside at a picnic table in good weather or on the porch during bad weather Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-12. You may pick up stickers at those times. We will be following state and local orders applicable to social distancing guidelines including keeping people 6 feet apart, wearing masks, and providing hand sanitizer. Elaine will mail stickers to those who wish to receive them by mail.

You may reach Elaine by email at elwaltoncsa@gmail.com or by phone at 231-352-4751.

Q 13. Can I put my boat on the CSA Crystal beach?

Yes. We ask that you pay the normal boat fee(s). Contact Ken Cox with mooring buoy requests at his cottage 352-9701 after June 15th or cell (720)219-4344. All motorboat dock slips have been reserved. See Question 12 on how to get your sticker.

Q 14. Where will I pick up my mail?

If you need to receive mail this summer you can still use the CSA address: 2128 Pilgrim Highway, Frankfort, MI 49635. Your mail will be delivered to the Frankfort Post Office and you can pick it up there (including FedEx and UPS). Do not try to pick up until after noon as they are busy sorting the packages in the morning.

Q 15. Where will I pick up packages from UPS and FedEx?

You can see if they will deliver to your street address, check the applicable website for the nearest pick-up location, or your package can be delivered to the Frankfort Post Office and you can pick it up there. Do not try to pick up until after noon as they are busy sorting the packages in the morning.

Q 16. Can we use the ball field?

Yes, but there will be no organized CSA activities, and everyone should follow social distancing precautions and comply with state and local orders. Use of the ball field will be at your own risk.

Q 17. Will the Crystal View bathrooms be open?

No. [Click here to read the announcement on the website.](#)

Q 18. Will we receive the weekly Emails from the CSA this summer?

The Communications Committee, the Arts Committee, and in fact all of your CSA Committees, are hard at work thinking of ways to connect us virtually. You will hear more about that in the weeks to come. In the meantime, if you have any creative ideas for connecting us during these tricky times, please do not hesitate to contact the various Committee Chairs, whose names and Email addresses are in your 2020 Assembly News on pages 8-9.

Q 19. Will the Crystal Lake fire pit be available for use?

Yes. Bring your own chairs and wood. Use at your own risk and follow state and local orders.

Q 20. Will there be an annual meeting?

Yes, but we currently anticipate a virtual meeting in order to protect the safety of our community. More information to follow in July.

Q 21. Will the Crystal Lake and Watershed Association meeting be held in the Assembly building?

No. All CSA buildings will be closed for the summer. The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (CLWA) will have a virtual meeting at its scheduled date and time: Saturday, July 18, 9:30 a.m. As always, all are invited to attend and hear updates on current CLWA projects. Information for accessing via Zoom will be posted on the CLWA website CrystalLakeWatershed.org, beginning on July 10. CLWA members will be receiving election ballots by mail, and they are urged to fill out and return them promptly.

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Q 22. Will there be a CSA Arts & Crafts Fair / Cottage Treasures sale this summer?

No. The Arts & Crafts Fair and Cottage Treasures sale are cancelled. Next year's date is July 28, 2021.

Q 23. Will there be a Gibson Lecture Series this summer?

No. The lecture series is cancelled for this summer.

Q 24. Will there be a Citation Award this summer?

No. The Citation Award recipient is postponed to next summer.

Q 25. Will the Nature Explorers Program take place this summer?

No, it is postponed to next summer. The new dates are July 19-23, 2021 from 1-5pm. [Click here for more information and how to register.](#)

Q 26. Will the main CSA waterline be turned on? This pertains to the 30 cottages on the Assembly well.

Yes, the waterline has been turned on. We asked them to please bleach the new well to help prevent any coliform problems that might carry over from last summer. So, please remember to run your water for a bit if you open up your cottage this summer to help remove any bleach that might be in your pipes. Last summer we suggested that you run an outdoor spigot for a while to flush out your pipes. That would work well again this summer.

Q 27. Will there be trash service this summer?

Yes, garbage pickup will be available for cottages both on the CSA grounds and on M22 as usual on Tuesdays and Fridays. Plan to have your trash out, ready for pick-up by 7:30am. You may purchase the yellow bags required for trash pick-up at Family Fare market in Frankfort.

Pickup will begin Memorial Day week and ends on September 4th.

[Click here to open the link for an update from Republic Waste Management about trash collection during COVID-19.](#) They are not taking bulk items at this time. Everything needs to be in the prepaid bags and under 50 lbs. Sometimes people have larger items that they tie bags to, hoping that they will get picked up. That strategy won't work now.

Q 28. Will there be any virtual ways for CSA members to connect with each other this summer?

Connection and community have always been deeply valued at the CSA, and committees will be discussing possible ways for our members to connect with each other this summer despite the cancellation of our in-person activities and programs. We will share information on those opportunities as soon as it becomes available and would welcome volunteers to help organize these efforts.