

# Our Church's Hearing Loop System

Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop system that enables persons with hearing aid devices that have a t-coil switch to have a greatly improved hearing experience in our sanctuary. McFarland UCC Member Harold Stafford is in charge of helping folks in our worshiping community understand how this works. He has put together the following information to help in this regard.

## Telecoil (T-Coil) explained

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A telecoil, also called a t-coil, is a small copper wire built into a hearing aid. This wire works as a receiver that picks up signals from a loop system (more on that in a bit). When the telecoil in the hearing aid is activated, it turns incoming signals into sound. The great thing about a telecoil is that it turns only the signals coming in from the loop system into sound, leaving out the background noise or other unnecessary conversations.

Think of a telecoil as a sort of antenna for your hearing aid — searching for the right signal (loop system) and delivering it straight to your device.

What is a loop system?

When you go to school, the movie theater, the airport, a concert, or a place of worship, you may notice they are equipped with loop systems or hearing assistive technologies. Look for this signage (or just ask!):



The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that public areas with audio amplification must provide assistive listening systems to those with hearing loss, including hearing loop systems.

Ask your audiologist to activate your telecoil (make appointment?)

When setting up your T=Coil, there are two main choices

- 1) T-Setting- when activated the hearing aids are connected to the microphone at the front of the venue (meaning the environmental microphones in the hearing aids are muted (downside is you can't hear person next to you)
- 2) M+T setting (M = microphone, T = telecoil) which keeps the microphone & the sounds around you active; can be set to attenuate (reduce amplification), meaning that while you can then still hear someone around it won't be quite as intrusive.

FYI - T-Coil is available in Phonak Paradise, Starkey Evolv, Oticon More, Widex Momnet, ReSound ONEs, JABRA and Signia AX hearing aids

See also: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG\\_IBLNZUQA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG_IBLNZUQA)

To locate venues that have a loop system, go to: [www.loopfinder.com](http://www.loopfinder.com)

Site allows you to search by venue

**Downside may include:**

\*Music can sometimes sound a little bit distorted due to the limited bandwidth of the Telecoils transmission signal (may not allow for higher frequency sounds in music)

\*If you're using it (Loop System) in a public space the signal can sometimes vary depending on your position within that pickup area. Therefore, there can be weak spots for the signal to come through.