

Church Council Plan for Returning to In-Person Church Services

April 25, 2021

- **In-person worship will resume on Sunday, May 2** at 11 am in the sanctuary, with childcare and children's worship available. We will continue to offer online worship, which will be available on Facebook Live at 11 am or on YouTube at a later time.
- The combined adult Sunday School class will continue to meet at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- Wednesday night Bible study will meet at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall during May.

Church Schedule May 2021

Sundays

- 9:30 am Combined Adult Sunday School Class in Fellowship Hall
(some classes will meet separately and/or on Zoom; see your class leader for details.)
- 11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary (with childcare and children's worship) and on Facebook Live

Wednesdays

- 6:30 pm Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall (can also set up on Zoom if there is interest)

Additional activities are being discussed and planned for youth, children, Keenagers and Senior Fellowship. Other groups may plan special events as well; please refer to the **Group Guidelines**.

As we return to in-person worship and other activities at church, we will continue to follow CDC guidelines, which include:

- **Wear** a mask over your nose and mouth.
- **Stay** at least 6 feet away from people who don't live with you.
- **Get** a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.*
- **Avoid** crowded areas and poorly ventilated spaces.
- **Wash** your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

*Children and youth age 15 and younger are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. For their protection, **we strongly encourage any volunteers or staff who will be working with youth and children to get the vaccine.** This will help protect our children and youth and their families, especially since social distancing can be difficult to maintain with very young children.

When NOT to attend in person

While we are excited to have the opportunity to gather in person once again, there may be times when it is best to refrain from attending in person for the protection of others.

1. Please do not attend in person services at church if you have or have had **Symptoms** of COVID-19 within the past 48 hours. Symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

If you have not been fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the final dose), please do not attend in person services at church if you

2. have had **Contact** (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) within the past 10 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID.
3. are **Waiting** for results of a test due to symptoms or exposure or you are **Worried** you may have been exposed

Remember, **Stop Covid at Worship – S. C. W.** - If you have **symptoms** or **contact** or if you are **waiting** or **worried**, please do not attend in person at this time! (If you have been fully vaccinated, only # 1 – Symptoms, applies, per CDC guidelines.)

Groups Guidelines

Groups who wish to meet in person at church are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Meet in a room large enough to allow for social distancing.
2. Leave door open. If possible, open windows. This increases ventilation in the room. If it is feasible to meet outside, this is highly encouraged.
3. Individuals should follow the CDC guidelines listed above, including:
 - a. Wash and/or sanitize hands frequently, especially upon arriving at church.
 - b. Continue to wear masks.
If everyone in the group is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after the final dose of the vaccine) the group may consider removing masks, but ***please be sensitive*** in addressing this issue. Vaccine eligibility has varied based on age and health, and some have not yet had time to be fully vaccinated. We do not want to single people out or make people feel unwelcome. It may be best to err on the side of caution and continue to wear masks in groups.
 - c. Maintain a distance of 6 feet from those outside of your household, especially for time periods longer than 15 minutes. (This may not always be feasible for those working with young children, but distance should be encouraged when possible.)
4. Communicate with the church office regarding when your group will meet and which room you will use. If this changes at any time, please let the church office know. This allows us to coordinate the church calendar and ensure that rooms are properly cleaned after use.
5. Individuals should stay home if they are not feeling well or have symptoms of COVID. If they have not been fully vaccinated, they should also stay home if they have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID, or are waiting for the results of a COVID test due to symptoms or exposure.
6. For groups who would like to eat at church
 - a. Eating outdoors is preferable.
 - b. Individuals should provide their own food OR the church may provide food if it is individually packaged (for example, boxed lunches). This reduces shared handling of utensils and close contact among individuals.
 - c. Group members should be especially cautious regarding social distancing while eating, since masks will be removed.

Following these guidelines for individuals and groups will help protect our church and community and reduce the likelihood that we will need to quarantine again. Thank you for your cooperation!

Coming Next:

- Children's Council and Youth Council are working on plans to resume Children's Sunday School and weekly youth activities.
- We hope to be able to have a more complete Wednesday night schedule by the fall.