

Reopen Task Force Update and Survey Results – August 23, 2021

We were all pretty hopeful at the beginning of the summer that the end of the pandemic was in sight. Unfortunately, it hasn't worked out that way. Considering the nature of the Delta variant and rising infection rates, and in light of survey responses, the Task Force has determined that staying the course is the best approach for the near future.

We had 112 responses to the survey and greatly appreciated your input, thoughtful comments, and concern for one another. The majority of respondents were most comfortable with wearing masks and continuing with social distancing (seating every other pew) at this time. Your input guided our policies, outlined below.

Policies for Worship Services

- We will continue to require **masks for all attendees**, regardless of vaccination status.
- We will also maintain **social distancing** (seating every other pew) and a capacity limit of 100 attendees. Since our average attendance has been around 40 people each Sunday, we are not going to require registration through Eventbrite for September. We will reevaluate if attendance increases substantially.
- **Choir members** will be able to sing without masks if they choose, and will wear masks when not singing. The congregation will need to continue with masks while singing.
- **Communion** will continue to be individual servings of the cup and bread and the offering plate will continue to be placed in the Narthex.
- In September, we will start having a **coffee hour** after service, serving only coffee and tea.

Church School Policies and Protocols

- Starting on Rally Day (September 12th) Church School will be **in person**.
- Children will start in the Sanctuary, remain with their family for the **Children's Sermon**, and then leave for their classrooms.
- **In the classroom**, all students and teachers will remain masked and socially distant (3 feet). Hand sanitizer will be available but desk shields were deemed unnecessary.
- Teachers will take **attendance** and a **wellness check email** will be sent that Wednesday to support contact tracing and notification.
- While a hybrid/virtual offering is not possible, the board of Christian Education is considering the possibility of offering **at-home instruction materials** for families that are not yet comfortable attending in person.

As we go into the Fall, we will continue to monitor CDC, state, and local guidelines and make adjustments as needed. Thank you for all your support and patience as we work through this together.