

Updated Protocols for Worship and Gathering Proposal May 20, 2021

In light of recent changes in CDC guidance, we propose the following protocols for worship and gathering, effective immediately:

1. For those who are not fully vaccinated against COVID19 or who have compromised immune systems, there is no change to recommendations for masking, gathering and social distancing. We ask that these people continue to follow the CDC guidelines for their own safety and the safety of others.
2. For those who are fully vaccinated (at least two weeks after the date of the final vaccine dose), masks and social distancing are now optional.
3. Seating has been added to the sanctuary, now with four foot spacing and a total capacity of about 500 people. Reservations will no longer be required. The Comfort Room will be open with a capacity of four occupants.
4. Musicians and worship leaders will no longer be required to wear masks. Mark will establish rules for the chancel choir and ensembles based on their willingness to participate with or without masks or in a group that is mixed. Vaccinated congregants will be permitted to sing.
5. Offering will continue to be taken as it has been throughout the pandemic, online, by mail and through the drop boxes in the sanctuaries.
6. Communion will continue to be served using prepackaged elements.
7. Bulletins will be printed for the 7:30 service only.
8. Hymnals will be returned for use in both the chapel and sanctuary.
9. Refreshments may be served by the Heavenly Hosts following worship services.
10. Livestreaming of the 9:00 and 10:45 services will continue. Because of copyright restrictions on music for the traditional service, additional licensing must be authorized in order to reduce restrictions on the repertoire for that service.