



Reopening Committee Update

With the vaccine rollout going well in the tri-state area, many of you have been wondering when we will be able to get back to in-person services. We hear you, and we know how difficult it has been to be physically separated from one another for over a year. Please be assured that the Reopening Committee has been in constant communication with the BOT during the past year, and together we are working on a safe plan for reopening.

When we look towards reopening, we know that everything we do must be grounded in both science and in our Unitarian Universalist principles. We know that these principals include the crucial concern for the most vulnerable among us, and the recognition that we are part of an interdependent web, with our actions affecting our whole community.

If conditions around the pandemic continue to improve, we will consider reopening in the early fall. Before making this determination, however, we are closely monitoring multiple factors:

- Daily New Cases are at or below 1 per 100,000 people per day in White Plains and closest towns
- New infections in the area are less than .88 per already-infected person
- Testing in the area is widespread and 3% or less of the tests are positive
- Area hospitals have less than 50% of available ICU beds in use by Covid patients
- If new variants or slow vaccine uptake has us moving in the wrong direction, we will follow the most conservative advice from the State and the CDC.

As vaccinations become more and more widely distributed, we support them for those who are able, as the science is clear that they are effective and safe. While the vaccine will be added to our Covid toolbox, it will not replace CDC advised practices (mask wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene etc.) for some time to come.

We are currently working on a plan to ensure a safe return for all congregants. The plan includes making some updates to our physical structure and systems, such as the sanctuary ventilation system. Once the above criteria are met and the Reopening Committee deems it safe to reopen, we will survey the congregation again to assess the comfort level of all congregants. Please also be reassured that since the livestreaming of services has been so popular, and because many of you may still not feel comfortable with an in-person service, we have decided to continue to livestream indefinitely.

For those of you interested in the governance process for reopening (or other requests for access to CUUC building and property), the following summary is the policy adopted by the BoT at the outset of the pandemic: all requests for access to or reopening of CUUC buildings and property must be referred to the Reopening Committee. The evaluation and recommendations

of the Reopening Comm. are in turn submitted to the BoT for review and approval (or declination or other actions as deemed appropriate).

Thank you for your patience, your understanding and, most importantly, your continued love and support of this special community during such a challenging period. We will continue to keep you updated. Please know that our committee always welcomes questions, comments and suggestions.

Your Reopening Committee:

Tim Lynch, Co-Chair, Buildings and Grounds

Aimee Katz, Co-Chair, BOT liaison

Meredith Garmon, Minister

Tracy Breneman, DLREFD

Pam Parker, Administration

Becky Kurth, MD/Public Health

Tom Wacht, Legal

Christian Force, Weekly Service Production

Chris Kortlandt, Finance

Jane Dixon, Welcoming