

UPDATES: Returning with Grace

(Revised July 18):

1. Worship services will continue to be accessible online. The format and appearance of these experiences will continue to evolve as new equipment is installed and new approaches are implemented. The ultimate goal for online worship is live streaming the worship that takes place in the Sanctuary each week, but we are not yet capable of offering this access. We are actively pursuing this capability.
2. Masks will be optional for fully vaccinated individuals (those who are two weeks past their final COVID-19 vaccination shot) except for the times noted in the worship service section below. In keeping with CDC guidelines, masks will continue to be required in the building for those who have not been fully vaccinated.
3. Worship services in the Sanctuary will include the full hymnody and liturgy, and singing will be led by a soloist or small ensemble (these singers will have been fully vaccinated and may remain unmasked while singing).
 - Congregational singing will return. Everyone must wear a mask while singing, regardless of vaccination status, with the exception of the worship leaders in the choir space. Those who do not wish to put their masks on may meditate silently while others sing on behalf of the congregation.
 - The whole congregation will wear masks for the Passing of the Peace.
 - The factors influencing the possibility of congregational singing without masks continue to be studied and discussed by committees and leadership, and further decisions will be made at a later time.
4. The 'Tear and Share' will continue as our means of keeping attendance for contact tracing if needed; we request that all attendees complete a 'tear and share' and visitors share their contact information.
5. Communion will be distributed in the Sanctuary during the worship service.
 - Communion will be received at the altar rail. We will return to intinction as before.
 - The pastors will continue to go out into the congregation to offer Communion to those who are unable to come forward or who would prefer not to be on camera. Individuals may let the ushers or pastors know if they would prefer to receive Communion in their seat.
 - The pastors will continue to wear cloth face masks.
6. Social distancing seating in the Sanctuary is every other pew, and will be further reduced over time as attendance increases, provided that vaccinations continue to increase and the adverse impact by the virus continue to decrease.
7. Those who attend worship in-person may gather in the Fellowship Hall following worship services. Masks will be optional for those who are fully vaccinated and required for those who are not fully vaccinated.
 - Food will not be a component of our Hospitality at first, but will return later.

8. Children's in-person Sunday School will not resume until the Fall.
 - This will continue to be studied over the summer and additional recommendations will be sought.
9. Adult Sunday School (Confirmation and older) may meet indoors, provided that all class meetings are scheduled with the Church Office beforehand.
10. Committees may meet indoors, provided that all meetings are scheduled with the Church Office beforehand.
 - Committees are responsible for making possible it possible for some of their members to attend in-person meetings via Zoom, if some members do not yet feel comfortable attending meetings in-person (pastors will help facilitate this).
 - Masking requirements are the same as for general building use (see item 2).
 - These restrictions are the same for other small groups and teams.
11. Outreach programs can be pursued, provided that the necessary volunteers communicate their willingness to participate in-person in advance of any dates being scheduled.
 - Masking requirements are the same as for general building use (see item 2) or as required by a partnering organization if stricter than Grace's requirements.
 - Discussion regarding Family Promise is ongoing, particularly regarding the families who would be staying at Grace, requirements for Grace volunteers, etc.
12. Outside groups may begin to meet again - provided that they commit to following the same protocols regarding masks - and will assume responsibility for contact tracing, as well as responsibility for informing the church office if one of their members has tested positive for the virus. As before, all coordination and decisions regarding outside groups are made at the staff level.
13. Council will evaluate these limitations further at its July meeting and continue to discern the next steps we will take together as a congregation.