

## **UPDATED PLAN FOR INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHURCH GROUP MEETINGS**

As was announced on July 29, 2021, we have revised our COVID-19 protocols in compliance with new rules issued by Governor Murphy and guidance issued by the CDC. Following is an updated statement of our COVID-19 Plan as approved by our pastors and staff, with input from various church leaders. Future changes that are in accordance with rules issued by Governor Murphy may be implemented by our pastors and staff with input from key church leaders without approval of Church Council. Should you have any comments or questions, please contact either of our pastors or a member of church staff.

### Current Procedures Effective 8/1/21

**Two Services, 9:00 a.m. Sunday – Contemporary – in Sanctuary, and 11:00 a.m. Sunday – Traditional in Sanctuary. Both services to be live-streamed via FaceBook and YouTube.**

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| <b>Seating</b>           | No restrictions other than to be respectful of people whom you may choose to sit near.  |
| <b>Masks</b>             | All congregants are strongly recommended to wear masks at all times when inside church premises. This includes those who are vaccinated as well as those who are not vaccinated.  |
| <b>Children</b>          | Children are welcome to attend worship service with their families, and are strongly recommended to wear masks. We will not be providing Nursery services at this time. We hope to offer Nursery services for worship and other small group gatherings this Fall and are working toward that goal. Nursery workers will be required to follow all health and safety protocols.  |
| <b>Use of the Parlor</b> | The Parlor (also known as The Upper Room) may be used by families with children following the masking rules stated above or by others who prefer to be more socially distanced than seating in the Sanctuary may permit. Space is limited in the Parlor/Upper Room and will be available only on a first-come, first-served basis. If the Parlor/Upper Room is already in use when you arrive, please be respectful of the safety and comfort of the others using the room. |
| <b>Bulletins</b>         | We will continue to email a link to the Order of Worship and Announcements. We will also have paper bulletins available for those who attend service in person. These will be handed out by the Ushers.   |

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| <b>Communion</b>  | For now, communion will continue to be offered by using single use packs that will be available when you enter the Church building. Please dispose of the container and packaging in the waste basket as you leave the building.  |
| <b>Singing</b>  | Congregants are invited to sing softly with masks on. Humming, clapping, raising of hands and standing during hymns and praise songs are all permitted and encouraged as well! Hymnals and Bibles are restored to the pews.   |
| <b>Pastors,<br/>Choir/KRR/Worship<br/>Leaders and Other<br/>Participants in<br/>Worship Service</b>   | Plexiglass shields have been re-installed on the pulpit, lectern and across the communion rails between the KRR singers, choir, bell ringers and worship leader and the congregation. The front two pews on both sides will be reserved and left open, except singers and other musicians may sit lectern side when not performing. Singers, other musicians, worship leaders and pastors may sing, preach, pray, read or otherwise perform unmasked if comfortable doing so behind plexiglass. Worship Leaders will be masked if moving around the sanctuary and while seated. |
| <b>Offering</b>   | For the time being, offering plates will not be passed during the service. Instead, offering plates/baskets will be available in the Sanctuary. As always, electronic giving or mail remain available alternatives.   |
| <b>Bathrooms</b>  | No restrictions. Sanitizing wipes or spray will be available.   |
| <b>Exit</b>   | Please continue to be respectful of the social distancing preferences of others.  |
| <b>Attendance</b>   | Attendance records for contact tracing will rely upon completed attendance cards, completed individually (name(s) only if church office has contact information) and dropped in an Offering Basket. Thank you!  |
| <b>If you are sick or do not feel well before coming to service, or if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 or other contagious disease:</b> | We respectfully ask you to remain home, call your doctor and monitor your health in accordance with the directions of your doctor.  |

Other Topics

Cleaning Protocols: Normal, pre-Covid cleaning protocols.

Church Office: Is now open following the masking rules set forth above. Office hours are M-F 8:30 -4:30.

Other Church Space: Church groups and Committees may book space in the Parlor/Upper Room, Chapel or Library during times when First Light is in session. Fellowship Hall and the Heritage Room may be available when First Light is not in Session. Any use of Church space should be reserved and pre-cleared through Joan Flamini. Use of masks will follow rules set forth above. Church groups meeting in person should also arrange a Zoom connection for any member who prefers to meet virtually. Any church group or committee may also continue to meet by Zoom.

Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Memorial Services: Indoor weddings, baptisms, funerals and memorial services are permitted in compliance with the rules set forth above. In the case of baptisms, pastors will work with families during pre-event counselling to determine if a baptism will occur during an indoor service or an alternative outdoor service and whether the sacrament will be performed with a pastor holding the infant and/or laying on hands upon the infant/child/adult being baptized. Pastors may be masked during the sacrament if family requests pastor to hold the child.

Wedding or Funeral Receptions with food and/or beverage: Compliance with the then current NJ rules for health and safety protocols for indoor and outdoor dining will also be required.

Nursery, Childcare and Sunday School Classes: We hope to relaunch these activities this Fall with all health and safety protocols in place, and we are working toward that goal.

**NOTE: OTHER NON-CHURCH GROUP USE OF BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEE APPROVAL AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREGOING RULES AS OTHERWISE SUPPLEMENTED BY RESTRICTIONS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR THE USING GROUP.**