

Reopening FAQs

What is the advantage of reopening the church? Why did the Board of Trustees believe this was needed?

Individuals can choose to meet in person or online depending on their comfort level and vaccination status. We don't anticipate things looking different for those who choose to stay online. Our minister and worship committee can still conduct worship from their respective homes, and the worship can simply be simulcast in the sanctuary.

The mental health crisis we are in is just as relevant as the health crisis we are facing with COVID, and many of our members are really struggling with the isolation this far into the pandemic. If we can be responsive to mental health needs while also protecting our most physically vulnerable, our values call us to do that. Having multiple avenues to support our congregation ensures we are meeting everyone's needs.

With that in mind, we will have safety precautions for those who do choose to attend in person.

- **Masks must be worn that cover both your mouth & nose.**
- **No food or beverages will be provided.**
- **We will have hand sanitizer stations available.**
- **Please protect others by getting vaccinated and boosted.**
- **Members of the same household may slide chairs together for the duration of the service, but otherwise participants are asked to socially distance.**
- **We ask that if you have tested positive within the past ten days of the worship you wish to attend, or are feeling ill in any way, please do not attend! Instead, please participate with the Zoom telecast of the service.**

How will the different parts of Sunday change?

1. **Joys and Sorrows** - Online will be the same. Joys and sorrows in the sanctuary are being offered, as well.
2. **Coffee hour** - The people in the sanctuary are welcome to stay and converse, observing social distancing and masking requirements. However, consumables like communal cookies or coffee will NOT be available.

3. **Singing** - Singing with a mask is allowed.
4. **Order of Service** - This is now a “Self Serve” process. They will be centrally located for you to grab as you enter the sanctuary.
5. **Offering** - The offering plates will no longer be passed from person to person. Instead, an offering box will be located in the rear of the sanctuary.

What will happen if a new variant comes out or the numbers rise?

Right now we are playing it by ear. If COVID has taught us anything, it's to stay flexible! Some COVID variants – like omicron – are highly contagious; however, we can't see into the future.

How do we get to attend in-person worship?

1. We will discontinue the use of SignUpGenius as of May 1, 2022
2. Visitors will fill out a membership visitor card to assist with contact tracing.

Will we ever discontinue remote worship?

Currently, we do not anticipate ending it. It provides access to anyone. We are currently offering hybrid style services.