



Updated Gathering Guidelines from the Pandemic Planning Task Force

September 13, 2022

Dear Congregants and Friends ~

This past Sunday's In-Gathering Service was a joyful beginning to our new church year. The intergenerational service was well attended with 85 people in person. The PPTF was able to gather data which continues to inform our guidelines. We wish to share that data with you and reiterate our current protocols so that all can make the choices that are best for you.

With 85 masked attendees at worship, the rear sanctuary doors closed and no fans on, the CO2 sensor went above 800(ppm) after the second hymn. The doors were opened and the fans were turned on. However, by the end of the service, the sensor went just above 900(ppm). indicating that the concentration of CO2 was still too high. Our aim is to minimize the inhalation of each others exhalations.

For Sunday Worship:

Please enter the building and the sanctuary masked so that our youngest can join us safely and comfortably.

When the children leave the service for religious education in Metcalf Hall, those who wish to remove their mask may do so.

In order to maximize air circulation while our heating and venting system is not in use, we have asked that the sexton and ushers have all windows open, the ceiling fans on and the doors in the back of the sanctuary open during the service.

The head usher will monitor the CO2 sensor. Should the monitor reach 800(ppm), the ushers will turn on the standing fans to assist in air flow out of the sanctuary. At 800(ppm), the concentration of CO2 is still safe, but the likelihood of viral transmission is growing. Should an increase of CO2 to even higher levels occur, a determination can be made, an announcement made, and those who wish may choose to put their mask back on.

We will continue to serve coffee outdoors. Should the weather prohibit this, we feel that Symmes does not provide adequate space for unmasked socializing and eating, so we will not serve food or beverages. Please remain sensitive to other's choice to wear a mask as you socialize indoors.

On Sundays, Metcalf Hall will be used by the Religious Education program once the children leave the service. But for events not happening on Sunday mornings, masks will be optional and food may be served in Metcalf Hall.

For Children & Youth:

The Nursery and both RE classes for **K-6** will all happen in Metcalf Hall. Children should arrive wearing masks. **Spirit Play (K-4)** will require masks, though **Neighboring Faiths (5-6)** may be optional, depending on the comfort of the group. Nursery staff are required to wear masks but masks will be optional for babies/toddlers in childcare. Masks in OWL will be decided by OWL parents at their orientation, and will be optional for WUSYG.

We will continue monitoring both COVID data and the CO2 sensor data, as well as "taking the pulse" of our community. As always, we hope to allow the most freedom in gathering while providing safety for those who may be more at risk. We will continue to make adjustments as needed according to the information we have.

We want to see everyone in person, and have a vibrant sense of connection and community while always keeping health and safety in mind. If you feel unwell, please do not come to church. Share the love, not the virus...

The Pandemic Planning Task Force and Staff pandemicplanningtf@winchesteruu.org

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