

Van Meter United Methodist Church
Procedures for Indoor Worship
August 11, 2021

These guidelines have been updated to reflect recent changes in CDC guidance that now recommend “everyone wear a mask in indoor public settings in areas of substantial and high transmission, regardless of vaccination status.” As of this date, Dallas County is an area of high transmission.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a mask while in the church building with others including those who are fully vaccinated.
- Face shields and neck gaiters are not considered by the CDC to be as effective as masks. Wearing a mask instead of a face shield or neck gaiter is requested.
- A supply of disposable masks will be available.
- Our mask policy will be posted on the entrance doors.

Worship Service Modification

- Every other pew will be marked with a sign and left empty. The empty pews will be alternated across the aisle. Two family groups sitting in the same pew will sit apart from each other.
- Bulletins and the Grapevine will be available for pickup on the table in the entry hallway before the service.
- Worship leaders and vocalists will stay on the platform while speaking or singing. They may remove their mask while actively participating in the service.
- The children will remain in the seats with their family for the Time for Young Disciples.
- Offering plates will be passed during the service. Recent studies indicate that the COVID virus is mainly transmitted through the air and not on surfaces.
- There will be no Fellowship Time after the Worship Service.

Social Behavior

- Attendees who are not feeling well will be asked not to attend worship.
- Hugging and hand shaking will be discouraged.

Environmental controls

- The Sanctuary and Overflow will be cleaned after the Worship Service.
- Sanitizing stations will be provided.
- The Nursery will not be available.

Engineering Controls

- Our building envelope is not sealed well. This allows for many air changes per hour without making any changes to the existing HVAC system.
- Air is supplied from floor registers along the outside walls and the return air is removed by overhead grills. This arrangement helps to remove contaminated air.
- The furnace blowers will be set to run continuously prior to, during, and after the Worship Service to more effectively move contaminated air away from the seating area.
- Ceiling fans will not be used during the Worship Service because they are downdraft and will introduce additional turbulence in the air flow in the Sanctuary causing an increase in exposure to contaminated air.
- The windows along the sides of the Sanctuary will be open prior, during, and after the Worship Service to introduce additional fresh air into the Sanctuary.