

NEW IN-PERSON PROTOCOLS

*I pray that you may enjoy good health
and that all may go well with you,
even as your soul is getting along well.
(2 John 1:2)*

Dear Members & Friends,

I write to update you on our NEW protocols for in-person worship and other activities of Christ Church and ALSO to share an important pastoral note on how we can be witnesses to God's love in our time.

Throughout the pandemic, we've been pleased to supply you with weekly [ONLINE](#) content to help keep your connection with Christ strong. We will continue to do this, but my personal hope is that our NEW standards will inspire more of you to join us once again [IN-PERSON](#) (Hebrews 1:24-25), if you're able.

1. We can now accommodate in-person attendance up to **60% of room capacity** for all Christ Church events, except as defined otherwise for particular events. You'll find most tables and chairs in their familiar locations. Please feel free to bring coffee or tea with you!
2. There is **NO need to register in advance to attend worship** in-person. We have ample overflow space should interest exceed room capacity.
3. We still ask parents to [pre-register kids](#) for Oak Brook Sunday Children's Ministry. However, if you forget to register in time, please bring your kids anyway and we will accommodate them if we have sufficient space or teachers. We usually do!
4. **For those who are fully vaccinated**, we are now [mask-OPTIONAL](#) at all indoor activities of Christ Church (with one exception below). No one needs wear a mask when outside our buildings.
5. **For anyone wishing to exercise maximum caution**, the 11:00 a.m. Classic service in Oak Brook is now [mask-ONLY](#) (with the exception of worship leaders when they are performing).
6. **Adults and children who have not been fully vaccinated** are asked to [wear masks](#) when inside our facilities. In respect for medical privacy, we will not police vaccine status but request that people exercise care for themselves and their neighbors as scripture commends (Romans 12:10). We are pleased to provide **free masks** at the entrances to our buildings.
7. Except when outdoors, **kids under 12 and all adult workers in our Children's Ministry** will continue to be required to wear masks. **Fully vaccinated children** can notify their teacher and will be free to take off their mask. We look forward to expanding our childcare and elementary school programming when we are able to field a sufficient number of volunteer workers. If you'd like to help, please contact Shari Knutson at sknutson@ChristChurch.us.
8. We continue to gratefully receive offerings through [online giving](#) and other **no-touch mechanisms**. **Communion** is presently by personal packet. We **clean** worship spaces between services, **wipe down** hand railings, and provide **hand sanitizer** stations abundantly.

In implementing all of this, I am aware of the potential for Christ Church's practices to become one more of the many bones of contention being scrapped over in our time. The "anxiety and division engines" of our society are now categorizing and caricaturing people by their choice to use masks or get vaccinated or not. That's sad, because human behavior is usually a lot more nuanced and complicated.

I hope we won't conclude that everyone we see wearing a mask in days ahead is someone who "refuses to get vaccinated" or "doesn't believe the science" or "is making a political statement." Many will just be exercising an extra measure of caution out of care for themselves or others. Similarly, it seems unwise to assume that someone's choice not to be vaccinated at this point is evidence of their "partisan persuasion" or "lack of consideration for others." The willingness to introduce a new substance into one's body is an intensely personal decision, often influenced by medical and individual factors we can't see.

This pandemic has been hard. We are muddling through the best we can. No set of protocols is going to appeal to everyone. As the passage from Philippians cited below suggests, let's stay humble, show all the value for others we can, and push back against the unloving, divisive spirits of our age.

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
(Philippians 2:1-4)

As has been our practice throughout the past year, we will revise our standards and communicate with you should further data commend a change to our practices. Thank you for BEING Christ Church.

Yours in hope and love,



Dan Meyer, Senior Pastor