

## APC Safety Protocols for Inside, In-person Worship

1) No version of indoor worship will be risk-free. We can make it safer, but not safe. We can be clear that choosing to worship via Facebook is the best choice for those who are vulnerable, and that we will do everything in our power to make that worship experience fulfilling and loving.

2) Getting vaccinated is an act of love and faith, and we strongly, unequivocally, urge anyone who can get vaccinated to do so. It is our duty as Christians to care for our neighbors, and the vaccine allows us to do that in a very profound and immediate way.

We can constantly reinforce this message in our liturgy, and perhaps even offer spiritual counseling and other support (information, etc) for those who are not yet vaccinated but are willing/able to consider it.

3) We are deeply concerned for our neighbors who are unable to be vaccinated, and aware that the reasons why are often also the reasons why they have been excluded from church life in the past - age, disability, chronic illness, social and economic marginalization.

This is why those who can be vaccinated absolutely must do so - the closer we can get to 100 percent vaccination status, the closer we come to creating a beloved community where all are welcome and cared for.

4) We should ask about vaccination status so that people can make an informed choice about whether they can feel safe in

worship or not. Sending copies of proof of vaccinations lets APC keep track of what percentage of our members and regular attendees are vaccinated, and thus allows us to offer that in the spirit of allowing people to make informed decisions.

## **Safety Protocols**

**Proof of Vaccination:** People will send proof of vaccination to Ashley. Proof of vaccination can also be shared on-site with Michelle. Ashley will share details with Michelle as Clerk of Session. Ashley and Michelle can share number of people vaccinated with Session and congregation.

**Masks:** Masks will be worn at all times for those two years of age and up. Masks for adults and kids will be available in the main entrance area if needed. VDH signage will be present as a reminder on how to wear masks.

**Air Quality:** APC has 20% fresh air always coming into the space. Air purifiers will be in the conference room, worship space, gathering area, and Ashley's office.

**Space Cleaning:** Our space will continue to be cleaned every Friday and Sunday afternoon.

**Hand Washing/Hand Sanitizers:** People will be asked to use hand sanitizer coming and going from the main entrance. A hand sanitizer station will be available at the main entrance. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the facility.

VDH signs will be put in bathrooms to reinforce handwashing protocols.

**Seat Spacing:** Chairs in the worship space will be spaced as far from each other as possible. The worship space will be configured so that people can sit in the kitchen area and see what's going on from the lectern.

**Symptom Check/Reminder:** We have a greeter outside the main entrance greeting people, reminding them about symptoms and if they feel sick to please stay home. Signage from VDH will list symptoms.

**Contact Tracing:** Another greeter inside the main entrance area will ask people to sign in with a phone or email in case we need to do contact tracing.

If we learn someone who has attended worship has tested positive for COVID-19, we will offer worship on FB the following Sunday to quarantine. We will ask those in attendance to follow quarantine protocols per VDH.

**Livestream:** We will livestream our service, so people have a choice in how they participate in worship.