

Dear Friends and Members of First Pres:

Knowing that “maintaining public worship” is one of the Great Ends of the Church, your pastors and Session members have prayerfully attempted to offer safe and spiritual opportunities for worship during this trying year.

We suspended in-person worship in March and celebrated on-line worship together each Sunday in the early days of the pandemic.

We kept our vibrant virtual worship as an option for our congregation as we re-opened the sanctuary to in-person worship in June. At that time, among our guidelines for in-person worship we:

Asked all worshippers at our 9 and 11 am services to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Required face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Asked people not to sing.

Last month, we amended our guidelines to allow singing while we continued to wear face coverings.

After hearing concerns about the experience of in-person worship from a number of participants, we are further amending our worship participation guidelines as follows:

People who wish to attend in-person worship at 9 AM will be asked to:

Maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship

Wear a face covering while entering, exiting, and moving around in the building for worship. Once people are seated, socially distanced from all people except those in their chosen seating group, they may remove their face mask, if they choose, for that portion of the worship service.

If any person wishes to sing hymns or responses, we ask that you replace your face covering while singing.

And people who wish to attend in-person worship at 11 AM will be asked to follow our current worship guideline which include:

Requiring all worshippers to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Requiring face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Worshippers are invited to sing while wearing face coverings.

We hope that these modifications will allow all of us to safely worship God in a style that is meaningful and helpful in your faith life. And of course, our vibrant virtual worship experience will keep us all connected.

In Christ,
Steve Negley