

July 8, 2021

Dear Trinity Family,

As the Session continues evaluating the pandemic trends and safety recommendations, we have discerned that it is time to move another step forward in our phased reopening of the Trinity Presbyterian Church building for in-person worship.

As was the case back in May when we first announced our phased reopening approach, our primary concern is for the safety of all.

For those who prefer to worship in the safety of their home, we are continuing to provide the live stream worship service via Facebook Live, with uploads of the service to YouTube, as we have been doing for over a year. We understand your concern and respect your decision; the Church continues to gather in worship in many places and ways!

Below are the Session revised procedures to help people attending in-person worship to do so safely. Please take note of these procedures before attending worship:

### **Sign Up to Attend No Longer Required**

Although we are discontinuing using Sign Up Genius to pre-register to attend in-person worship, you will still be required to provide your name and contact information on the attendance log at either sanctuary entrance.

Likewise, although the sanctuary space remains partitioned for physical distancing, we are discontinuing the requirement to sit in household pods.

**We encourage but are not requiring in person attendees to have been vaccinated. Everyone who enters the building for worship will be asked to check in to enable contact tracing, should that be required. And we do request that you notify the church if within 5 days of attending in person worship you or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19.**

### **Masks Continue to be Required**

Although many if not most of our adult and teenaged Trinity church family has now been vaccinated, our young children are not yet able to receive this protection. Therefore, in keeping with Trinity's longstanding commitment to inclusivity coupled with public health recommendations that everyone regardless of vaccination status wear masks indoors, the Session continues to require the wearing of a mask covering the nose and mouth to attend in-person worship.

Also, for the sake of all, those planning to attend in person worship must be symptom free and have not had contact with a person with COVID-19 for at least 14 days. Worship leaders will wear masks except while leading the service. If you forget to bring a mask, masks will be available at both church entrances.

### **Entering and Leaving the Church**

All those who are able, please use the Washington Avenue main doors for entering and exiting the church. For those with mobility issues who require the elevator, please enter through the accessible entrance on Kingsland. As you enter or exit, please practice physical distancing allowing at least six feet between you and other people in the congregation. At each sanctuary entrance, Ushers will assist in registering your attendance. Ushers will practice physical distancing – providing guidance and information but not shaking hands.

Please use the hand sanitizer available at each entrance when entering and leaving.

## Pre- and Post-Worship Fellowship Outdoors and in the Sanctuary

We continue requesting that those attending in person worship arrive no earlier than 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. This allows time for rehearsals, along with sound and other technology testing prior to the service.

We know how much we have all missed both worshipping in person together and catching up with one another. **While continuing to practice physical distancing, worshipers may chat outdoors or *inside* both before and after the service.** We do continue to request that worshipers not congregate at the entrances.

## Worship

The worship service is a special time for all our members, but there continue to be some necessary changes designed to help keep each other safe.

- ◆ In order to continue providing our simultaneous online worship service those worshipping with us in person will notice small cameras and additional microphones placed across the front of the sanctuary. These are now part of our new normal!
- ◆ In person attendees are requested to either put their cell phones in airplane mode or turn them completely off.
- ◆ During the passing of the peace, congregants should not leave their pews or offer handshakes or hugs. A smile and a nod or a friendly wave or the two-finger peace sign from our places are suggested ways to pass the peace while maintaining physical distance. We encourage creativity!
- ◆ For the offering, no plates are being passed during the service. Designated offering receptacles are near sanctuary exits in which to deposit your financial gifts as you enter or leave the service.
- ◆ The sacrament of Holy Communion is typically celebrated during worship on the first Sunday of the month. **Beginning the first Sunday in August we will provide in person worship attendees with pre-packaged communion elements with which to participate in partaking of the Sacrament.**
- ◆ There continues to be uncertainty about the safety of congregational and choral singing. However, the **Session is now allowing quiet congregational singing. Congregants are to remain seated and masked while singing.** And those who prefer may still hum or listen silently as our safely distanced from the congregation contract soloists sing the hymns and offer other special music. Swaying and tapping your feet is welcome, too!
- ◆ For a baptism, please make an appointment to discuss with the pastor.

The downstairs areas of the church will remain closed at this time. Families are invited to bring their own quiet activities for use in the pews.

The restrooms across from the Weems Chapel will be open. A container of wipes will be in each and users are requested to use one to wipe all handles after using these facilities.

We look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you and being God's holy church in person and online! If you have any questions about attending worship or the procedures as outlined in this letter, please email [communications@TrinityUCity.org](mailto:communications@TrinityUCity.org), or call the office at 314-725-3840.

Peace and good health to you and your families!

The Trinity Session