



## COVID-19 Precautions For Indoor Worship At McFarland UCC

### Indoor Worship Begins Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

After a good deal of research and conversation, our congregation's Servant and Leadership Team (SaLT) has approved the following policy as we begin worshipping inside once again. We agreed to state our policy as simply as possible, to honor the science to the best of our ability, and to make all potential errors on the side of being "overly cautious" regarding the safety and wellbeing of all persons gathering, and especially of those most vulnerable to the virus.

Please know that your suggestions and input are always welcome as we move forward, and that if you are not comfortable complying with the following procedures you can always join us for worship via zoom. We will gladly relax our policies over time if and when the science suggests it is wise to do so.

It will be wonderful to be in our beautiful church sanctuary once again, and thank you so much for honoring these precautions as we find our way back inside.

Pastor Bryan Sirchio and SaLT

- 1. Vaccination Status:** We strongly encourage those who want to be inside the building for worship to be fully vaccinated. We are not going to ask people if they are vaccinated or not, but it is our preference that persons worshipping inside the building be vaccinated if possible.
- 2. Masks are required:** We are asking everyone to make this easy by joyfully agreeing to come to indoor worship masked and not to ask for an exception. Regardless of our personal individual preferences and comfort level with wearing masks, we will require masks as an expression of loving concern for each other and especially for the children among us who are not yet able to be vaccinated.
- 3. There will be no singing.** This is the one area where there is the greatest difference of opinion regarding how to best interpret the science at this point. We are going to start indoor worship with no singing at all and err on the side of caution. Once we feel the science is clear that singing is safe we will be eager to change this policy.
- 4. Social distancing:** We will have ushers present to help you as you enter the sanctuary to find seats for yourself and those with you. We will provide sheets of colored paper to put on the chairs on both sides of a family or group. These chairs will remain empty. We have increased the distance between the rows of chairs. As we have during outdoor worship, we will not pass an



offering plate or engage in liturgical moments that encourage touching other people. During times of announcements or prayer or other occasions for persons in the congregation to speak into a microphone, a wireless microphone will be brought to you by a designated individual who will hold the mic for you to speak into and thus avoid many different people touching and passing a microphone.

**5. Regarding Children:** We are well aware that children are not yet vaccinated and we want to do everything possible to keep them safe. For this reason we will not have children gather at the “kids table” as we have in the past and we suggest that children stay with their families. There will be paper and markers available for them to draw and color if they like. In accordance with our county guidelines we are asking that children over the age of 2 wear masks.

**6. Post Worship Fellowship:** We will encourage people to leave the building immediately after worship and to visit outside if they would like to, but we will not linger after worship inside for fellowship.