

GPUC in person services - Questions & Answers

Will there still be a ZOOM option?

- YES – we will have this option moving forward thanks to our dedicated ZOOM crew – they do need more helpful tech help – please reach out to Rudy @ if you are able to join this team.

Do I need to be fully vaccinated to be in person?

- YES—and Asymptomatic. Please do not assume anything is ‘just a cold/allergies’ if you have any symptoms that could be mild COVID stay home/get tested. The reason for having only vaccinated individuals is to protect the vulnerable. Vaccinated people are unlikely to be the vector of spread of COVID if they are asymptomatic.

Will you be checking the vaccination status of individuals?

- No, there will be an honor system in place.

Do I wear a mask?

- Yes, masks are required for attendance, regardless of vaccination status.

How will the seating be?

- Seating will not be modified, however the gallery will be available for those that are not interested in singing or being in the area where singing occurs.

Will we have coffee hour?

- Feel free to gather in the garden post service when weather permits. There will not be drinks after the service in the summer.

Will there be singing?

- Data shows that singing produces anywhere from 3 to 11 times more droplets that then circulate throughout the occupied space (compared to speaking), **services will not include singing at this time.**

Hugs? Handshakes? Fist bumps? Elbow taps?

- Ask individuals what works for them prior to initiation of greeting type.

What about the air circulation at the church?

- Thanks to Veronica Smith’s efforts we have the HVAC filters in place for best practice COVID living. We will also open the doors that go to the sanctuary when appropriate.

What about the under 12 year old kids who have not been able to be vaccinated?

- In the fall, Julie Artis is working on special planning for kids to have their continuation of RE programs outdoors when possible. She has done such a great job connecting though out the pandemic! For this summer no childcare will be available during our soft opening but look for more information for kids closer to fall.

How is the church basing decision making?

- There is a reopening committee with recommendations with the board making the ultimate decision. We are utilizing the CDC, local Michigan guidelines and the UUA for decision making. Ultimately it is up to the individual risk stratification to decide to stick with ZOOM for now or try the in-person option.

Is this how it is going to be throughout 2021 or the summer or the whole 21/22 year?

- This is for the summer. Expect updates and details for the fall closer to August. COVID is a moving target and the board is utilizing their best judgment to make decisions for the congregation.

But what if the Delta variant makes the community spread go up and hospitalizations go up?

- The board will adjust its guidelines if things change. Zoom will continue to be an option for any service that is in person.

What if in the next winter we find we need a booster vaccine – how will this be monitored? How will we know if we can get infected?

- The clinical trials of vaccine measure vaccine effectiveness (titers) in the groups that were a part of the trials prior to the general public getting the vaccine. As a church we will have to continue to balance our own personal health and risk with the psychological needs of being in person with low spread risk. We will do our very best to utilize science based decision making to keep the congregation safe.

What if I have a medical contraindication to getting the vaccine or am severely immunocompromised?

- For now the ZOOM option should be utilized. After talking with your doctor and making a plan the board can be approached via email to the president, Russ Chavey at russchavey@gmail.com or 313-378-2407, for consideration of an accommodation such as the above individual wearing a properly fitted N95 mask.

What if I decided I still need to do ZOOM but feel isolated?

- Please reach out to the chair of our lay pastoral committee, Carol Guither at cguither@gmail.com, and she will get you connected for social support!

I am just not sure what to do... I am vaccinated but all this seems so complicated and hard to make decisions.

- You are not alone in this feeling! It has been a rollercoaster of navigating how to live during this pandemic. If you need to know more details or have a specific question not covered here please reach out to Russell Chavey, at russchavey@gmail.com.