

March 1, 2021

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP THIS SPRING: A MESSAGE FROM THE REOPENING TASK

The Task Force continues to be cautiously optimistic that re-opening of the sanctuary will be safe in the near future, due to the current decline in COVID infection rates as well as increased availability of vaccinations. In addition to in-person sanctuary services, the opportunity to resume outdoor services, weather permitting, is exciting.

Some have asked what the process for re-opening will be at St Matthew.

- When will we reopen?
- How will parishioners hear of the reopening?

The re-opening planning continues to be based primarily upon weekly COVID infection rates for Avon, Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury.

The Task Force accesses the weekly COVID infection data when those data become available each Friday.

- If data are trending toward all four towns being out of the “red zone” (fewer than 15 positive cases per 100,000 per day) as of a given Friday, the Task Force will recommend to Church leadership that the sanctuary be opened for the Sunday one week after that Friday. Notification will be distributed to the St. Matthew congregation, with opportunity for registration to attend the in-person service.
- If, however, at least one of the four towns move into the “red zone” the Friday before the Sunday opening, registrants would be notified and the in-person service would be deferred.

As always, the 9am Zoom weekly service will continue through the pandemic.

The Task Force, together with Church leadership, remains committed to resuming services in the sanctuary as soon as public health metrics indicate it is safe to do so. Please feel free to contact Church leadership or any members of the Task Force with any questions, concerns, or comments.