

REOPENING TASK FORCE UPDATE – MAY 26, 2021

The Reopening Task Force (RTF) is very pleased to announce next steps for expanding in-person worship and fellowship activities.

The State of Connecticut's latest guidance for religious gatherings, effective May 19th, 2021, has been relaxed for indoor and outdoor worship, allowing for numbers that can be "safely accommodated".

Beginning on June 20th (Father's Day), the sanctuary will be open for 9 a.m. indoor Sunday worship. Please register if you plan to attend as we have limited seating at this time.

For the time being, mask wearing and social distancing will still be expected for all over the age of 3 years who attend the in-person sanctuary service. We are taking this approach at this time to continue to ensure our more vulnerable populations, including the unvaccinated and children, are safe and protected. The Task Force will continue to assess this approach as all age categories become eligible for vaccination and recommend revisions to our protocols as needed.

Zoom services will be replaced once live streaming technology via YouTube is available. **St. Matthew will maintain its commitment to an ongoing virtual option for worship for those who prefer it or who cannot attend in-person.**

Outdoor worship will be offered on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. through June 13, and at 7pm on Wednesday evenings beginning June 24th, weather permitting.

Mask wearing and social distancing are recommended but not required for fully vaccinated individuals for outdoor services and related outdoor Church activities. However we encourage all to wear masks as they arrive and leave to maximize the protection of all in our congregation.

Small group ministries and committees may now meet indoors and outdoors.

Masks will still be required for all indoor activities.

Please contact Diane at the office to reserve space in the building or outdoors.

The church building opened to the public on May 24th, 2021. The building is now open during office hours, Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm. Please ring the office doorbell for admittance if the door is locked.

The Reopening Task Force will continue to monitor the rapidly evolving guidance from CDC and State of Connecticut and will provide recommendations to Council as additional updates become warranted.