



## Christ Church

*A Church for All the Seasons of Life*

Dear Christ Church Family,

### **The Christ Church Reopening Process--We're getting closer!**

I'll say it again, I'm so proud of our Christ Church community for enduring this past-year-plus, despite the difficulties posed to parish life by the pandemic. You have shown grit, determination, joy and love throughout this time and, as a result, our community is as strong and united as ever. Still, we long for a return to some degree of normalcy in our worship and programs. Happily, on that front there is good news. State and diocesan guidelines have been relaxed to permit a return to much of our pre-Covid 19 practices, albeit with some adjustments/limitations to ensure the health and safety of all who attend Christ Church activities. Thanks to Barbara Garrity and members of the Reopening Committee for digesting these new guidelines and applying them to our local context.

### **Attendance at Worship Services**

Everyone is welcome to attend all of our services at Christ Church, but due to the continuing threat of the virus and the disparity in vaccinated status among our parishioners, please be advised of the following:

#### *Vaccination Status:*

We will operate according to the honor system. Please follow all written guidelines, verbal instructions and posted signage regarding worship attendance.

#### *Seating*

Reservations are no longer required but we ask that our families with children let the office know in advance if they intend to attend a specific service, so that we designate enough socially distanced rows.

**Unvaccinated persons:** Masks and social distance guidelines remain in place for all unvaccinated persons. To date this includes all children under twelve years of age. There will be signs at all entrances reminding everyone of this mandatory policy. The first eight rows of the church on the right side will be reserved for masked, unvaccinated worshippers. You may sit any where in this designated section, but you must maintain six feet distance between households.

**Vaccinated persons:** For all vaccinated persons, you are no longer required to wear a mask, but you are welcome to wear one if you wish for the extra protection. You may sit in any of the pews designated for those attendees who have been vaccinated. You must maintain three feet distance between households.

**All:** Entering and exiting the church should remain orderly and lines kept moving to minimize exposure to the virus. Lingering in the aisles or gathering in groups inside the church should be avoided both before and after the service.



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### *Communion:*

Communion will be offered in one kind only (bread/wafer). The Common Cup (wine) is still not permitted to be shared. The Sacrament will be offered at the communion rail.

**Unvaccinated persons:** Each household will be invited to the communion rail separately. Social distance at the rail must be maintained. Once everyone in your household has received, and the Priest has moved away from the rail, you may remove your mask briefly to consume the Sacrament.

**Vaccinated person:** Ushers will invite worshippers by row to the communion rail. \*For those who are more comfortable receiving the Sacrament in their pew, simply inform an usher and the priest will be advised accordingly.

### *The Peace:*

**All:** Social distance will continue to be observed between households. A friendly nod or wave is appropriate for the Peace. Please do not shake hands or in any way physically touch anyone who is not from your household.

### *The Collection Plate*

For the time being, worshippers can continue to place their offerings in baskets located in the narthex. Online donations are encouraged, please visit the Christ Church website and click on the Donate tab (<https://christchurchmiddletown.org/donate>).

### *Coffee Hour*

For the time being, a simple coffee hour will be offered outdoors on the church lawn, weather permitting. In the case of inclement weather, the gathering be held in the undercroft for no longer than thirty-five-minute limit (so that aerosols don't accumulate to potentially unsafe levels). Food will be individually packaged. Unvaccinated attendees are asked to maintain social distance, especially when they unmask to eat or drink.

Remember, we show our love for each other by doing all we can to ensure each other's safety.

Peace,  
Michael+