



1. Are we requiring masks for all members of the congregation?

Yes. In response to the Fairfax Health Department's Guidelines updated on August 3, 2021, we ask that anyone over the age of two, even those who are vaccinated, to properly wear a mask anytime in the building. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus>

2. Can I just show up for worship?

In order for us to maintain appropriate distancing, we ask that you notify the church office to let us know how many people from your family unit are planning to attend on each Sunday. There will be a link in the weekly email or you can contact our office administrator, Debbie Kilpatrick, office@cliftonpc.org or call 703-830-3175 during office hours (Tuesday-Friday 12:30-4:30).

3. What if people come and they haven't signed up? Or what if more people show up than can fit with proper distancing?

*In case of overflow we will have the zoom service playing in fellowship hall. We understand that outsiders to the community may not know to sign up, **so we will ask those who have pre-registered if they are willing to give up their place in a pew so that guests can be in the sanctuary. This is a wonderful chance to follow Christ in practicing true hospitality!***

4. How will you determine if someone hasn't pre-registered?

We are asking our greeters and ushers to act as hosts, checking the list of those who have registered and ensuring that those who are not registered have a place in the sanctuary or fellowship hall.

5. Can I sit in "my" seat?

Since we will be trying to maintain distance between family groups, it is possible that you may not be able to sit in "your" seat. While we understand that space is important, we hope that this will be an opportunity to practice flexibility and trust that the Spirit will find you no matter what pew you sit in.

6. If not in my seat, how will I know where to sit?

The hosts (ushers/greeters) will guide you to an appropriate spot to sit.

7. Is childcare available for services?

Although children are welcomed as a part of the worshipping community - with all the noises and wiggles associated with that - we will be resuming our childcare with Gladys Salinas, our beloved longtime caregiver, for those who would prefer that alternative. In keeping with our child protection policy, there will always be a second adult in the room with Gladys and the children.

8. Will we allow congregational singing?

We are allowing members of the congregation to sing with the soloist (usually Hannah Harris) if it is done masked and softly. CDC and ministry groups concerned with congregational singing still do not recommend congregational singing without masks.

<https://congregationsong.org/covid-updates-congregational-song/>

<https://thehymnsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Care-filled-Worship-and-Sacramental-Life-in-a-Lingering-Pandemic.pdf>

9. Can I give hugs and handshakes?

We would ask that you consider other means of greeting each other. Bumping elbows, a slight bow of the head to honor the other: these are all safer ways to greet each other.

<https://www.verywellhealth.com/shaking-hands-greetings-covid-vaccine-5118469>

<https://www.earlebrown.com/20-handshake-alternatives-for-germ-free-greetings/>

10. Will we pass an offering plate?

We will not be passing an offering plate. You can continue to make donations online or through the mail, and there will also be an offering plate in the sanctuary where you can leave your envelope.

11. How will we keep crowds from bunching up after service?

Much like we often do at a wedding, we will dismiss by pews.

12. How will we handle communion?

Those who have been to our outdoor services have had experience with the pre-packaged communion cups and wafer. We will continue with this practice. Individuals can pick up their elements as they enter the sanctuary.

13. How will we be guided through our services?

We will continue to use the same slideshow that we have used while we have worshipped on zoom. If you would like to use a bulletin, please print it out at home from the Thursday email.

14. Can we continue to do prayer and care time as we have at the end of our online worship service?

This will likely be our biggest experiment as we return to the sanctuary. Our hope is that we will be able to bring together those in the sanctuary and those worshipping via zoom, but this has some moving parts that need to be tested and tried.

15. Will we pass the peace?

Exchanging signs of Christ's peace has always been an act of community and worship at CPC. However, handshakes and hugs are not recommended at this time. Worship leaders will introduce different ways to pass the peace in hopes you can find one that feels suitable for yourself.

16. Will we have "cup of fellowship" in fellowship hall after worship?

We hope that will begin eventually. As we start off we are focusing on the worship service, but we know that CPC loves its socializing! We hope that we will soon have a time of fellowship.