

Safety Protocols Starting June 20

6/8/21

Blessings to our Church Family,

Church Council met on Monday evening and approved the attached MAP (Mitigation Assistance Plan) that has been submitted to the District Superintendent for review. The MAP addresses specific types of safety protocols and applies to all activities within the church starting **Sunday, June 20**. (Until that time, we will continue to follow our existing protocols.)

Here are some key highlights and practical applications of the MAP:

- You will no longer have to register in advance for worship services. You will register your own attendance by putting the bulletin Connection card in the offering box. You will also do your own health screening. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to in-person activities.
- We will still maintain 6' social distance, but now you can pick your own seats.
- Masks will be optional for fully vaccinated individuals for indoor or outdoor activities. Those who are not fully vaccinated are asked to continue to wear them for indoor events.
- We'll continue to use pre-packaged Communion elements from our seats.
- Van transportation to worship services can resume with everyone in the van wearing a mask.
- In-person Sunday School classes, committees and other meetings can resume with social distancing. So you might meet in a larger space. High touch areas of the room must be cleaned after the meeting.
- Children's activities may resume following safety protocols proven effective in our Preschool. Contact Children's Director Dawn Lemasney (dlemasney@gmail.com) for information.

We are not yet ready to resume our Wednesday fellowship dinners or having the full choir sing together. PRG will continue to monitor the local COVID positivity rates and will have future meetings to consider possible changes to the MAP.

All of our small groups, Sunday School classes, committees, etc should talk about if they are ready to come back into the church for their meetings and if so, determine if their "normal" room will be large enough for the number of people with social distancing. Then contact the church office to let them know when you plan to return and which room you are requesting, so they can make sure rooms don't get double booked. Do this even if you anticipate the room you used before still works for your group.

We are very much looking forward to this period of increased activity at the church and we hope to see all of you soon! We very much appreciate your help in keeping our congregation safe, as COVID-19 infections are still present (even increasing a bit) in our community. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor Joe at joeshoop@vaumc.org or 540-797-5505.

Blessings from your PRG,

Janice Gentry (PRG Leader)