



SAINT TIMOTHY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WE ARE CHRIST'S HANDS • FEET • VOICE IN THE WORLD

On March 14, Bishop Monnot sent an email regarding updated COVID guidelines based on CDC recommendations to the clergy and those responsible for daily operations in congregations.

*I want to make it clear that **each congregation within the diocese has my express support to require more strict safety measures than are indicated here, if they so choose.** The lay and clergy leadership of each congregation need to discern together whether additional precautions are required in the local context in order to protect the most vulnerable. We don't always know whether someone is at a high risk for serious illness if they are infected by COVID unless they tell us. Those in a high risk category include anyone over the age of 65, children with preexisting conditions who are too young to be vaccinated, and anyone else with a medical condition that puts them at a higher risk, such as an autoimmune disease or an immune system suppressed due to chemotherapy or other lifesaving medicine.* ~Bishop Monnot

After much consideration, conversation with leadership, and prayer, St. Timothy's will move into a new phase of re-gathering beginning on April 2. We will be following these guidelines, so changes are coming. Our changes are guided by our love of our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Beginning April 2,

- For the safety of our community, parishioners are highly encouraged to be fully vaccinated and boosted. If you feel sick, please worship with us on-line.
- Updated diocesan guidelines state that face masks are now optional*. Some will continue to wear masks, others not. Please be guided by your own health status and the status of those with whom you live or work. **Masks may be required for gatherings in classrooms or other small group / youth activities to protect our children and youth with health issues.*
- Physical distancing is no longer required in the sanctuary. People may sit wherever they want. We will, however, have a section on the south side of the sanctuary for those who wish to remain physically distant from others not in their "pods."
- We will continue offering wine during communion in small shallow bowls for intinction (dipping of the wafers.)
- Resume a robust coffee hour with opportunities for socializing with one another following the 10:15 service – particularly as we are supporting our Justice Journey Youth Pilgrimage. We'll have coffee, hot cocoa, tea, and baked goodies for a free-will offering.
- Reconvene The Children's ARK for ages 3-5 and offer childcare for children aged 2 and younger.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTIAN FORMATION INFORMATION

- Parents / guardians are asked to contact Mary if you have concerns about your child's participation in small group formation gatherings. Depending on the health issues of those gathered, masks may be required.
- If medically able, we highly recommend that teachers, mentors, caregivers, and children over the age of 12 be vaccinated and boosted and that children between the ages of 5 and 12 to be fully vaccinated.

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If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to one of the clergy or to Suzy Coen, Senior Warden. We're as excited to adopt these changes as many of you are. But we are also keenly aware of those among us who are at risk. So we're taking it one step at a time!

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts! ~Pre-Opening Task Team

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