

# UUAC Reopening Protocols

## Worship Services

The year's first service will be Water Communion Sunday, to be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be an outside service, providing all with an opportunity to participate in person in a service. No livestream option will be available for this service, as we will be finalizing the necessary technology.

“Hybrid Services” will begin on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, allowing congregants to attend in-person in the Sanctuary, or to stream from a remote location.

1. What metrics will be used to determine whether there will be in-person worship?
  - Many of our congregants reside in 3 towns: Holliston, Natick, or Sherborn. If any of the 3 towns are red, based on the Massachusetts Dept of Public Health town-based ratings, published each Thursday, then in-person worship *will not be* available on Sunday morning.
  
2. Will the online livestreamed service be the same as it was this past year?
  - The Zoom platform served us well last year, but it's not a feasible platform for our hybrid worship needs. The new platform, BoxCast, has benefits including a user-friendly experience to access service from the UUAC website.
  - The chat function and breakout room functionalities will not be available through this technology.
  - We are in the process of determining how and whether prayers can be submitted remotely.
  - The platform is easy to use and intuitive, and a tutorial will be available for those who would find that helpful.
  - Due to technological limitations with our new streaming platform, participants who have an active role in the service and who are not in the sanctuary will need to be pre-recorded, with their video played during the service.
  
3. Are masks required for in-person worship?
  - Yes. Masks are required for all over the age of 2. Masks may be removed by the worship leader or reader while they are speaking.
  - Disposable masks will be available for those who forget to bring their mask to the sanctuary.
  
4. Will there be social distancing?

- Both sets of side pews—next to the left and right windows—will be reserved for those who want to maintain distance, with seating in every other pew.
- The middle pews and the balcony will not be set up for distanced seating.
- As with everything else, we will adjust this as needed, based on the number of in-person attendees.

5. Are attendees required to sign-up?

- No, we expect that there will be space in the sanctuary for those who wish to attend in person.
- As with everything, we will revisit this after the first couple of weeks; if the sanctuary is crowded, we may implement a sign-up.

6. What about music and singing?

- There will only be solos or duets with the two singers significantly spaced. Singers must be fully vaccinated. Congregants may hum along but should not sing.
- Each Sunday will have 1 or 2 solos or duets and one song that everyone hums along with.
- Music will include instrumental pieces, although wind instruments will not be allowed.
- Small groups may gather to record pieces of music to be played during worship, if they choose to do so. All participants in such groups must be fully vaccinated.

7. Will worship leaders be vaccinated?

- Yes. This includes anyone reading from the pulpit, all ushers, anyone singing. If someone is not vaccinated, they will need to pre-record their piece and send it in advance.
- We will not require written proof of vaccination. We expect everyone will be honest about their vaccination status.

8. Will there be coffee hour?

- We will have fellowship time outdoors, under the tent and/or on the lawn after the service. Attendees will be encouraged to bring their own food and/or beverages.
- This will be in place through the end of October - for as long as we have the tent. We will encourage folks to be off the pavement and out of the way of cars.

9. If someone tests COVID-19 positive after having attended a service in-person, what is the contact tracing protocol?

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 within 48 hours after attending an in-person service should contact the church, via email ([uuac@uuac.org](mailto:uuac@uuac.org)) or phone (508-653-1422).
- The church is responsible for contacting the Sherborn Board of Health and they will do the contact tracing.

#### 10. What else should we know about in-person service?

- We will have two ushers to help with guiding attendees to the different seating options, to greet any visitors, to count any cash collected during the offertory, and to count the number of attendees.
- Greeting will happen just outside, rather than just inside, the doors to alleviate congestion, weather-permitting.
- There *will not* be a paper Order of Service.
- Use of restrooms will be limited to one person or family unit at a time.

#### 11. What about the offertory?

- Electronic contributions are encouraged for both remote and in-person participants. Understanding that COVID is not transmitted via surfaces, a basket will be available for in-person participants who prefer to give cash or checks.