

## **Session Updates In-Person Worship Protocols**

July 15, 2021

Because information and the community status of COVID is frequently in flux, the Building Re-Opening Task Force Report to Session in June 2021 included a recommendation that First Church protocols be reviewed and refined based on learnings from their implementation. After careful consideration at its July meeting, the Session of First Church has adopted the following protocols until further notice:

### **A. Traditional Worship Service (sanctuary):**

1. If you are fully vaccinated, mask use is optional. If you are not fully vaccinated, masks are required. Love your neighbor and wear a mask! Mask use:
  - a. Permits congregation singing with limited risk
  - b. Allows for limited air movement safety (hand fans for relief from heat) with minimal increase in risk
  - c. Vaccinated but immunocompromised individuals may have limited COVID-19 resistance
  - d. Unvaccinated congregants likely to be in attendance
2. Registration is required to enable social distancing and allow for planning if multiple services are necessary, and allows for contact tracing if a positive COVID-19 attendee is subsequently identified.
  - a. Pre-register in advance online or by calling the church office or register in-person on Sunday morning.
  - b. Check-in with an usher upon arrival.

### **B. Celebration! Worship Service (Old Buttonwood Hall):**

1. Because the Celebration service is predominately attended by families with young children (who cannot be vaccinated), masks are required for all attendees.
2. Pre-registration is required to enable social distancing and contact tracing.
  - a. Register online in advance or in-person on Sunday morning.
  - b. Check in with an usher upon arrival.