



Oakmont Presbyterian Church



415 Pennsylvania Avenue ♦ Oakmont, PA 15139
(412) 828-5770 ♦ (412) 828-0907 Fax

August 31, 2021

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We had hoped that the pandemic was mostly behind us. However, the evolving understanding of the coronavirus and its variants and a current surge in daily reports of new cases in Allegheny County reveal a new context that causes us to review our practices.

Session's administrative team met by zoom to discuss how we continue to balance a desire to reduce the risks from the virus while maintaining the ability to meet and worship in group settings.

Out of an abundance of caution the Session through its Administrative Committee has adopted the following mitigation practices for in-person group activities and reaffirms the commitment to offer remote options for those members who wish to engage virtually:

- Masking will be required of all persons entering the Church and should cover the nose and mouth
- Meals inside the church including funeral luncheons will be suspended for now.
- The choirs will resume masking for rehearsals and worship
- Congregational singing with masks in worship continues
- We encourage physically distant seating, except for family groups
- Keep pew ropes in worship off
- Keep Friendship Hall open at all times to allow for plenty of seating
- Whenever possible open sanctuary windows
- Resume usual cleaning practices
- Continue offering masks and hand sanitizers at the entrances
- Print music in the bulletins
- Continue using the baskets for offerings
- Continue to use the prepackaged individual communion cups (we know that COVID is NOT spread through food but the passing of the Communion trays would force people to be close to one another) Allow all groups to continue to meet at the Church but masks are required
- Request individuals to continue to self-assess possible viral symptoms and refrain from in-person attendance if uncertain
- Livestream and recorded access to all worship services will continue
- When possible, remote call-in options for church committee meetings will be offered

Our goal remains to be able to provide the opportunity to meet in-person through continuous assessment of the ever-changing pandemic situation and taking reasonable steps to protect one another from infection. We will continue to monitor the risk and adapt our practices accordingly.

Your Administrative Team

Dr. Susan Deakin Kabazie – Convenor, Dr. Amy Burkert, Dr. Iain Campbell and Elders Sam Anderson, Barbara Bolls, Frank Hancock, Jeff Kline, Nancy Sloan, Ralph McIntyre, Robin Gourley, Sherry Geis and Steve Wilson