



120 W. Sandusky St.
Findlay, OH 45840

419.422.4845
FAX: 419.422.5296

office@saumcfindlay.org
www.saumcfindlay.org

Rev. Jeffrey A. Motter
Senior Pastor

May 19, 2021

Dear Church Family and Friends of St. Andrew's UMC,

Grace to you and peace from God and from our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to update you regarding changes in our protocols for our reopening for in-person public worship on Pentecost, May 23, 2021.

The Church Council voted to reopen for public worship at its April 22 meeting and reviewed and adopted necessary protocols on May 6, 2021. Following new information and recommendations from the State of Ohio and the Centers for Disease Control, the Council met in special session on May 18, 2021, to revise the protocols. A summary of these guidelines is listed below. An updated detailed document is available on our website at saumcfindlay.org or may be requested from the Church office. We hope that you will read these guidelines and abide by them when you choose to engage in-person with us.

These protocols remain a "work in progress" as new science and recommendations are announced. The Staff and Council will continually monitor the situation and modify these protocols as needed. Thank you for your grace, patience, and understanding through this difficult and hopeful season. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 419.422.4845 (office), jmotter@saumcfindlay.org, or 419.302.8165 (cell). Please continue to pray for our congregation, our leaders, our community, and our world. **We hope that you will worship with us, whether in person, on the radio, or online on May 23, 2021!**

The peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Jeffrey A. Motter

SUMMARY OF TEMPORARY COVID-19 CHURCH REOPENING MEASURES

To provide a protected and safe environment for worshipers to gather for in-person worship and as an expression of our love for our neighbor, St. Andrew's will take the following steps as a next phase during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation evolves and additional information becomes available, these measures will be modified appropriately. These reflect information current as of May 18, 2021.

- As expressions of Christian love for our neighbor, worshipers (regardless of vaccination status) will be **highly recommended** (no longer "required") to wear a mask that completely covers their nose and mouth, unless medically or otherwise exempt, and will be expected to observe safe, physical distancing (at least 6 feet) from those not part of their household
- The Crawford Street and alley entrances will be entry points to the building
- The congregation will be invited to sing **and are highly recommended to wear a mask** while singing
- Special music may be offered by soloists or ensembles that are safely distanced from one another and at least 20 feet from the congregation; may be prerecorded (*please continue reading on back*)

"Love God, Love Others, Serve the World. . .Change Lives"

SUMMARY OF TEMPORARY REOPENING MEASURES (continued from front)

- Choral groups will not resume under “Red” conditions; however, under “Orange/Yellow,” choral groups may rehearse and sing with appropriate safe distancing and masks; the Church will provide appropriate masks
- Socializing is strongly encouraged to occur in safe, socially distant ways, preferably outside the building
- Children are always welcome to attend worship and sit with their families, though parents are welcome to remain in our Nursery with their child if they desire (the service may be seen in the Nursery); Nursery and childcare services are not being provided at this time
- All people are invited to and welcome to in-person public worship at St. Andrew’s UMC, as well as online on our Facebook page and website at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. and our radio broadcast on WFIN at 9:00 a.m.
- Individuals who are ill or exhibiting symptoms of illness (fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, etc.), who are more likely to become severely ill, who live with someone at a higher risk, who have underlying medical conditions that increase the risk or severity of COVID-19, or are pregnant are encouraged to participate in our radio or online worship options
- Church groups and outside groups may resume meetings in the building in spaces of adequate size to allow for safe distancing; group members ***are highly recommended*** to wear masks (unless exempt) at all times and to practice safe distancing; groups may choose to continue meeting online using Zoom
- No shared food may be served
- Rooms must be reserved in advance with the Church Office; available rooms include Atrium, Fellowship Hall, 201, 203, 204, Library, Sanctuary, and Annex
- These protocols will be revised from time-to-time as new information becomes available on (1) local case rates, (2) local vaccination rates, (3) current scientific data and understandings, and (4) other related factors and as other circumstances change