

Unity Presbyterian Church Re-Gathering Plan for Nursery & Children in Worship March 2021

Unity Presbyterian Church remains committed to providing a safe and loving children's ministry as we begin to offer Nursery and Children in Worship (CIW) again during in-person worship. We are continuously monitoring the latest developments in and around our community. Furthermore, we are using the same COVID-19 protocols that were developed by our weekday Unity Preschool and approved by Unity's Re-Gathering Team and Session with emphasis on the information provided by our federal, state, and local guidelines.

While we cannot guarantee COVID-19 will not occur at Unity, our weekday Preschool has been open and operating successfully using these protocols since October 2020. Please know we are doing everything that we can to ensure a safe and healthy environment for your child while maintaining a developmentally appropriate environment of hospitable care and spiritual growth for young children.

Capacity

Only pre-registered children will be allowed to attend Nursery or CIW so that proper staff and space can be prepared. Parents will sign up their children as a part of their own registration for Sunday in-person worship for a particular week.

Health Screening for COVID-19 Illness or Exposure

When deciding to attend in-person worship and bring your child to Nursery or CIW, a good rule of thumb is: Would you want someone with your child's symptoms visiting your home? If not, please keep your child home with you for the love and attention they desire.

- All Nursery and CIW staff will be required to fill out a health screening form upon arrival at work. They will also have their temperature checked by another staff member. Anyone with a temperature of 99 degrees F or higher will be sent home.
- Parents of children attending Nursery and CIW are asked to take their children's temperature prior to coming to church and not to bring them if they have a temperature of 99 degrees F or higher.
- Any Nursery and CIW staff or child who has any of the following signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend Nursery or CIW: fever or feeling feverish, a temperature greater than 99 degrees F, new cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, muscle aches or body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell.
- Any Nursery and CIW staff or child who has been **diagnosed** with COVID-19 should isolate for **10 days** from the onset of their symptoms, or the date of their positive COVID-19 test and should not return to Nursery or CIW until they have been fever free without the use of fever reducing medicine for at least 24 hours **and** have improving symptoms.

- Any Nursery and CIW staff or child who has been in close contact with another person known or suspected to be infected with COVID-19 should quarantine and not attend Nursery or CIW for 14 days from their last known exposure.
- We recognize that many childhood illnesses include fever and doctor's visits are expensive. However, if you suspect possible exposure, please have your child tested and know that the results are negative, before bringing them to Nursery or CIW. We all must work together to keep our programs safe and healthy for our children and staff.
- If a child presents a fever or other symptoms of illness while in Nursery or CIW, they will be removed from the room and parents contacted through the beeper system for children in the Nursery and by text for children in CIW to come and take their child home. The well children will move to another indoor location until the end of worship.
- Nursery and CIW staff are asked to be vigilant regarding symptoms of illness and stay in touch with the Nursery Director if or when they start to feel sick.
- Nursery and CIW staff or children attending Nursery or CIW who test positive or have a close contact situation are asked to notify Kathryn McGregor, the Director of Christian Education, or Lauren Lochel, Nursery Coordinator, as soon as possible afterward so appropriate protocols can be determined. Nursery and CIW staff and parents of children attending these programs will be notified that there is a confirmed case, but names will not be disclosed.

Preventative Health Measures

Unity Presbyterian Church is committed to providing our families with a clean environment. While this is already a Unity Church "Best Practice", we will continue with our daily protocols while adding some extra steps to help facilitate a good experience for all. This will include:

- All staff will have training on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and at-risk factors.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located at all drop off doors. There will also be stations throughout the preschool/nursery wing in high traffic areas.
- Frequent handwashing (upon entering the classroom, before and after handling food or drinks, diaper changes and assisting children with the potty, etc.).
- Soft-surface and other hard to clean items will be removed from the room.
- Children are asked not to bring toys from home
- The Nursery will not provide any food. Parents are encouraged to limit snacks if possible and provide any drinks or snacks that their child will need during their time in the

Nursery. Food will not be served during CIW.

- Frequent disinfecting of bathrooms including sanitizing between users. These duties will be completed by Nursery/CIW staff.
- Windows and doors (where possible) will be kept open to allow for increased air circulation.
- All Nursery/Preschool rooms, including the room temporarily being used for CIW will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day by our contracted cleaning service. Additionally, these rooms are cleaned on Thursday afternoons following the close of Preschool for the week and will not be used after that until the opening of the rooms for Nursery and CIW on Sunday mornings.
- When dropping children off and picking up children for Nursery and CIW, parents are encouraged to stay outside of the door to the room. If a parent needs to come into the room for any reason, they will need to have their temperature checked and will be asked to fill out the health check form.
- Nursery-aged children old enough to use crayons and playdoh will use bags that hold their individual supplies. Children attending CIW will have cafeteria trays containing their individual supplies.

Nursery

- The Nursery will be available for the in-person 11:00 am worship service only until further notice.
- The Nursery will be staffed by 2-3 paid Unity Nursey Caregivers at all times. No volunteers will be used, until further notice.
- The Nursery will open at 10:40 am. Parents are asked to check-in for worship by entering through the Narthex entrance and then come down the stairs immediately outside the Narthex to take their child to the Nursery prior to the beginning of worship. They will return to the sanctuary by walking up the stairs at the front of the nursery wing and following the hallway back to the Narthex to be seated by Ushers.
- Children birth-4 years old after 9-1-20 are welcome in the nursery.
- Nursery staff will wear masks at all times. Children attending Nursery will not be required to wear masks, but parents may choose to have their children wear them.
- Children old enough to appropriately play outside will utilize the outdoor playground as much as possible. Parents are asked to dress children appropriately for outside play.

Children in Worship (CIW)

- CIW will be available for the in-person 11:00 am worship service only until further notice.
- CIW will be staffed by Lauren Lochel, our Nursery Coordinator, and 1 of our paid Nursey Caregivers. No volunteers will be used, until further notice.

- Children attending CIW will check-in for worship by entering through the Narthex entrance with their families and participating in worship in the Sanctuary until the Children's Time. Children will remain in the pew with their families during the Children's Time. Following that, children will walk to the front of the Sanctuary and exit out the door to the left into the hallway where they will be met by CIW staff and Church Ushers who will take them downstairs to the Handbell Room (Room S-116) to participate in CIW.
- Children 4 years old prior 9-1-20 through current 1st graders are welcome in CIW.
- CIW staff will wear masks at all times. **All children attending CIW are also required to wear a mask.**
- During CIW, children will sit on carpet squares which will be spaced out appropriately.

Thank you for your flexibility and adaptability as we work to make our Unity Nursery and CIW programs as safe as possible.