

2021 Guidelines and Protocols for Worship
Vermillion United Church of Christ
Updated October 13, 2021

Our church family's most important goal during this pandemic is to continue to move slowly and carefully so that we can be both a safe and welcoming community. We have made some new changes to our protocols for the weeks ahead. This re-opening continues to be a gradual and evolving process that we will update regularly.

We will continue to share each service remotely online via Facebook and YouTube, as well as our audio calling-service for those who are not comfortable joining us in-person or not comfortable with these protocols.

Gathering

We will have a welcome station at each entrance to the building. This station will include hand-sanitizer, extra masks, a posted list of these protocols, and a simple bulletin.

Masks

Masks will continue to be encouraged for all people over the age of three, but they are optional for any fully vaccinated people. We continue to require masks for any non-vaccinated folks.

Safe Distancing

We continue to invite people to keep a safe and healthy distance from others but there will be no restrictions on seating.

Music

Our organist or pianist will provide service music throughout the worship. A member of our music team or choir will provide singing throughout the service. Starting in November, either the choir or the congregation will sing a closing song inside at the end of our service, just as we depart.

Congregational Prayers

We will say the Lord's Prayer and other congregational litanies together.

Children and infants

Children are welcome to join us for worship. Minimum age for a mask is three years old. There will NOT be a nursery. There will be a children's story, but children will remain with their families for this time.

Handshakes, peace, offering and Communion

People are welcome to share peace and blessings during the service in whatever way they are most comfortable. Offerings will not be collected but may be shared in baskets by the doors as people exit. Communion will be shared *inside now* during the first Sunday of each month. Members are encouraged to bring their own elements, but safe pre-packaged elements will also be available to pick up as people enter.

Coffee HI

Starting in November, coffee (not food) will be available following worship, people are invited to come downstairs following our final blessing and share fellowship if they feel comfortable.