

Laurel Street Mennonite Church
Guidelines for Worship - Summer 2021
(update August 4)
- Tentative and Subject to Change -

In light of ever-evolving restrictions and guidelines surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leadership and Worship Committees are continuously discerning the best ways to gather safely as a worshipping community. Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Lancaster County and updated guidance from the CDC, Laurel Street has again revisited our mask policy.

- **Stay at home if you are sick, and self-quarantine if you think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.** Out of an abundance of caution, we ask this of everyone, including those who have been vaccinated.
- **Follow mask guidelines (updated 8/4/21).** In recognition of current guidelines, we ask everyone over age 2 to wear masks. Those leading in the service will be permitted to remove their mask while speaking/singing.
- **Maintain distance.** We encourage a distance of 1-2 chairs to be kept empty between households when possible. Chairs will be arranged to create aisles and we encourage all to be mindful of keeping these paths open to avoid congestion. While many will feel comfortable with handshakes and hugs, we ask that all be sensitive in how we approach one another and honor those who would prefer to receive/offer other forms of greeting.
- **Minimize exposure.** As much as possible, we will keep ceiling fans on and/or windows open to increase air movement. At the close of the service, participants will be asked to move outside for additional fellowship to help alleviate indoor congestion. Food and beverage service will not take place indoors at this time.
- **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing hands or using hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- **Continue a Zoom presence.** We will continue to offer a Zoom connection for those who prefer to join digitally. A team is working on ways to enhance this experience and maintain strong fellowship and connection.
- **Children's programming** will be offered two times per month. These classes will follow similar guidelines--with children and teachers wearing masks, maintaining safe distance, and practicing good hand hygiene. Snacks will not be offered at this time.

As with any guidelines and practices, these plans are subject to change as county, state, and country guidelines continue to evolve. We look forward to continuing to grow and nurture this faith community in a way that honors all members of the body.