

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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After nearly two years, millions of dollars' worth of construction and restoration, and as a result of your incredible generosity, our church building is ready to welcome us home. There are still some projects that are in the final stages, but most of the work is complete. We have resumed meeting in the church for both the 8 and 10 o'clock services as of Sunday, September 26th.

Given the continuing presence of Covid in our area – particularly the Delta Variant – we need to take the following precautions:

As we have said previously, we will continue to evolve our guidelines for gathering as we gain new insights.

Masks will be required for everyone the entire time in the building – even the narthex.

We will observe social distance. While we will open up all the pews this week, we ask that you keep distance between your group and others. For example, try to avoid sitting directly behind anyone. The ushers are happy to assist you if you have questions.

Given the recent attendance figures, we will not ask for RSVPs this week. We may reinstitute RSVPs in the future if the attendance increases significantly.

Music will be provided by Tim Lewis, our Director of Music, and our Section Leaders. For now, there will be no congregational singing. Section Leaders will be masked, and distanced from each other and the congregation. We hope to return to services with congregational singing and our full choir as soon as it is safe to do so. Our completely restored Skinner organ will be reinstalled later this fall. Until then, Tim will be using an electric keyboard.

It's our intention to broadcast the services via Zoom and record it for YouTube. The recording for YouTube will be available Monday morning.

Our church school kicked off on September 26th as well with registration and an open house. Parents should bring their children to the parish hall at 9:45 to register and to hear plans for this year's programming. Masking and social distancing will be strictly observed in the parish hall as well. The church school opening session will conclude in time for all to gather in church for the sermon.

There is a new ramp for persons with disabilities in the choir room entrance. It will not be possible to enter the church via the sacristy door through the chapel.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Faithfully yours,

Fr. Richard