

APC Safety Protocols

- **Seating:** Due to the surge in COVID cases, we will increase our distancing in the Sanctuary and will only allow seating in every other pew. Pews will be marked.
- **Masks:** When Alexandria City COVID transmission is substantial or high, we ask all APC attendees, ages 2 and older*, to please wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. *For ages 2-4, please ask the Director of Children's Ministries or the Sunday Nursery Supervisor for nursery area options. APC will provide guidance for each Sunday in our weekly emails and on signs outside the church building. When Alexandria City transmission is moderate or low, fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear masks. Masks are still required for those who are not fully vaccinated (ages 5 and up required). And of course any congregants who feel more comfortable in masks should feel free to continue to wear masks and be received warmly by those who do not.
- **RSVPs** are still required for nursery in order to manage the load in that unique, small room environment and with our nursery volunteers.
- **Social Distancing with Masks Section.** In order to care for people of varying comfort and preference levels, particularly in this time of transition, a section of pews in the Sanctuary and seats in the Balcony are reserved as a Social Distancing Section. Masks and social distancing are required in these areas, and they are open for anyone regardless of vaccination status. Signs taped on the pew ends and chairs of this section indicate where you may sit. It was determined that the safest location for these Sections is in the back of the Sanctuary on the left side (nearest to the parking lot) and the Balcony on the left side (nearest to the parking lot) because they provide the best protection from air droplets and allow the ability to enter/exit the room easily.
- **Children's Ministry:** Volunteers and workers who are serving in the Children's Ministry (nursery and Children's Church) must wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.
- **CFGs** may decide how they will proceed in terms of their comfort level as a group, while adhering to CDC and state guidelines.
- We must exit the Sanctuary immediately after the service so that DRB can begin preparations for their worship service. Conversations may be taken either downstairs to the Fellowship Hall, or out on the front lawn.
- Please refer to CDC guidance about when to quarantine or isolate to avoid transmitting COVID-19 to others.

APC's desire is to honor God in all we do—in the way we worship, the way we love one another, and the way we honor and respect our community. We trust congregants to follow these guidelines out of care for one another and ask for your flexibility as we continue to monitor and make adjustments as needed. This has been a challenging year with many twists and turns. And yet our God has remained faithful each step of the way, and we give thanks for His merciful protection. Please join us in continuing to seek His guidance and wisdom as we enter this next phase of life together.