

## UNITIARIAN SOCIETY OF GERMANTOWN

### Guidelines for Indoor Worship

***Updated 11/19/2021***

#### **How we have approached this**

Many of us have been eager to resume in-person activities at USG as the pandemic waxes and wanes. The Moving Ahead Steering Committee (MASC) was appointed by the Board and the Ministry Executive Team to explore how to move towards multi-platform (in-person and Zoom) worship and activities. Another USG group, the COVID Task Force, is responsible for advising on COVID safety. Multiple members of the COVID Task Force are healthcare professionals. The COVID Task Force advises on what is safe, and MASC is charged with making it operational. Everything done at USG must comply with the guidelines and recommendations of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

With the approval of the COVID Task Force, we are resuming indoor worship as outlined below. USG will continue to offer a remote option for those who do not attend in person.

*We recommend that everyone who comes to the church be fully vaccinated, if eligible. Children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated may attend with parents or adult family members. We warmly invite you to join us on Zoom if you are not fully vaccinated. And please get vaccinated if you are eligible.*

#### **Guidelines for Indoor Worship:**

- In accordance with Philadelphia mandate, masks will be required at all times. The congregation will be masked. Masks must cover nose and mouth.
- Persons who speak from the pulpit or chancel also must be masked, even when speaking.
- There will be no congregational singing at this time. Humming is permitted.
- *Singing will be allowed as part of the presentation of the service, with the limitations stated in the protocol captioned Singing at USG.*
- Please keep a distance of 6 feet between units or pods. There will be capacity limits to allow this.
- We ask attendees to sign in with contact information for purposes of contact tracing and tracking capacity limits, and to agree to notify USG if they test positive for COVID within the two weeks following the service they attend.
- We will provide oral and written announcements advising congregants of the various safety measures discussed above.
- Worship Arts, Welcoming, and Ushers have the flexibility to decide how they wish to handle passing the plate.

- Welcoming, Worship Arts, and Staff have the flexibility to decided whether to hold Fellowship Hour indoors and, if so, whether to permit beverages or food. Eating indoors is permitted subject to USG's capacity limits for the space and the limitations imposed by the City of Philadelphia, as follows:
  - Masks required except only:
    - When actively eating and drinking while seated or at a standing table of no more than four people.
    - Anyone who is not seated or at a table may not eat and/or drink.

**end**