

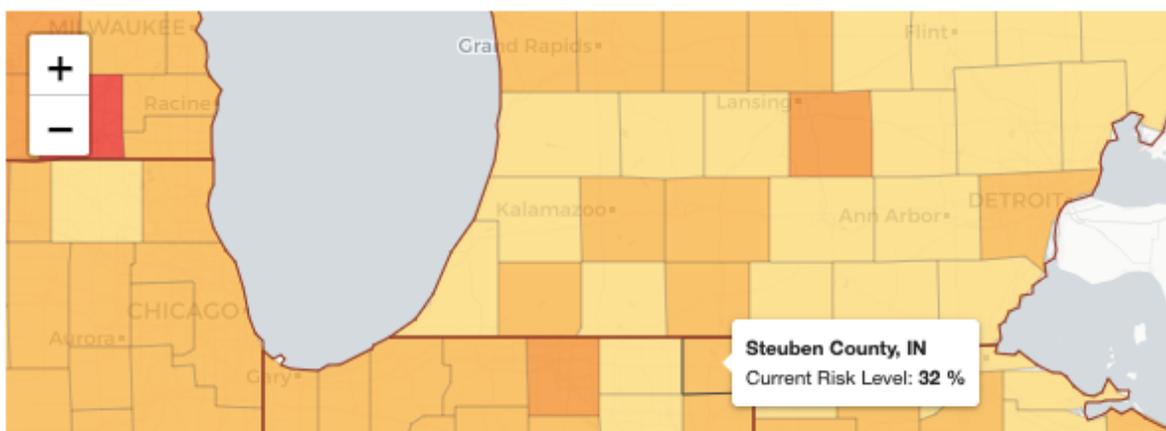
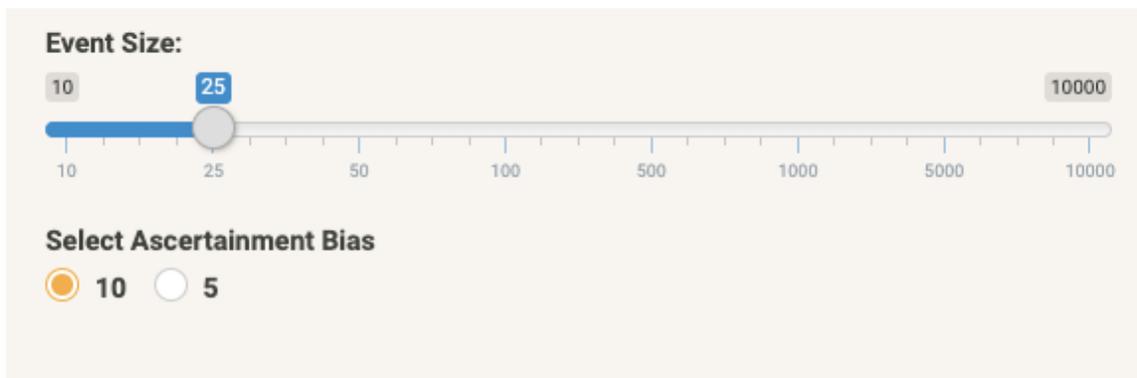
# FCUCC Guidelines for In-person Worship during COVID-19 Pandemic

## COVID-19 Planning Team Statement

The measures outlined below will help reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 during worship, but this is not a risk free activity. Some people are at risk for severe COVID-19 disease, including older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions. Participating in worship through Zoom remains a good option for these individuals and remains the only risk-free way for anyone to attend worship. The information contained in this document was compiled by the FCUCC COVID-19 Planning Team so that you will be informed and equipped to make the best decisions for your own health. Adhering to these guidelines will help us to prevent a cluster of COVID-19 cases at our church, but it is not a guarantee. We encourage everyone to continue to monitor the guidance of the CDC and local health authorities. At the time that this document was compiled (September 28, 2020), the United States saw over 200,000 COVID-19 deaths in our country, out of the 1,000,000 million COVID-19 deaths worldwide. While many more people have gotten COVID-19 and recovered, the disease is still very present and active in our country and our community. Let us take our responsibility to safeguard one another's health seriously by continuing to mask, maintain social distance, and frequently sanitize our hands.

### A Tool for Deciding if You Want to Register to Attend Church

You can assess real-time risk by county here: <https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu/>. This tool helps you to assess the likelihood that someone in a particular place, down to the level of county, will have COVID-19 within a particular group size. In other words, it will help answer the question pertinent to deciding to come to church: "If I go to worship with not more than 25 people, what's the chance that someone in the group will have COVID-19?" In the example here, using 25 as the max number of people at an event in Steuben County on September 27, 2020, there's a 32% chance that someone in the group will have a case of COVID-19.



## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- No unmasked persons may participate in worship, including children who are otherwise not required to mask.
- Masks should be worn from the time visitors exit their vehicles until services are over and visitors have returned to their vehicles.
- Masks must be worn so they covers both mouth and nose. Cloth or disposable masks are both fine. “Neck gators” are discouraged. Masks protect others from droplets carrying illness.
- No nursery or children’s church services will be available during worship.
- If someone is ill, even if they are registered to come to worship, they should stay home and participate in worship through Zoom.
- The following symptoms indicate that you may have COVID-19 and should NOT come to worship: fever, chills, shortness of breath, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, loss of taste or smell, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- If someone has **any** of these symptoms, they should stay home and participate through Zoom.
- If you are living under the same roof with someone who is experiencing symptoms and/or is presumed positive (testing or tested-pending negative results).
- If you have come into direct contact (within 6’ for 15+ minutes) with someone who is experiencing symptoms and/or is presumed positive.

## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



**FEVER 100.4\* OR CHILLS**

\*or school board policy if threshold is lower



**SORE THROAT**



**COUGH\* OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH**

\*especially new onset, uncontrolled cough



**DIARRHEA, NAUSEA OR VOMITING**



**HEADACHE\***

\*particularly new onset of severe headache, especially with fever



**NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL**



**MUSCLE OR BODY ACHES OR FATIGUE**

# WORSHIP PROTOCOLS

## REGISTERING FOR LIMITED IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- People will need to sign up for worship by calling or emailing the office. The Office Manager will maintain a paper sign-up sheet (see below) and assign people according to the seating chart (see below). Members are NOT automatically signed up for worship until the Office Manager confirms their spot via email or by phone.
- People will need to repeat the sign-up process each week.
- We will continue on a first signed-up, first served basis UNLESS there are more people trying to sign up than there are available seats. If we have an excess, those people will be offered a space in the following Sunday's service.
- One seat must be maintained for the Scripture reader and family unit (no more than 3 people, max) and one for the usher, if those volunteers are separate people.

## PROTOCOLS ON SUNDAYS: Before Worship

- Before worship the pastor or usher should check to see that the pews not in use are taped off and that the hallway outside the sanctuary, past the men's room, is also taped off.
- The usher will get wipes or sanitizing spray and paper towels from the office for wiping off the door handle after worshippers enter.
- The usher will wear gloves and place the collection basket near the door.
- The usher will check that disposable masks, if available, and hand sanitizer are placed near the door.
- The usher will check that both the women's room and the men's room have wipes or sanitizing spray.
- The pastor will provide the usher with the seating chart for that Sunday.

## PROTOCOLS ON SUNDAYS: Entering the Church

- The seating chart and list of attendees will be made available to the Usher to confirm that those who show up for worship are registered and to know where to direct them to sit. This is for safety and contact tracing purposes.
- Only one door will be open (the handicap-accessible entry on the west side of the building) for both entry and exit.
- The usher will be masked and gloved and will be provided with cleaning wipes or similar to disinfect the door handles after worship begins.
- People registered to attend in-person worship should remain in their car until doors open 10 minutes prior to service.
- After exiting the car, registered visitors to worship must be careful to maintain at least 6 feet of social distance at all times, including when outside.
- Upon entry to the building:
  - Hand sanitizer will be provided for registered visitors to sanitize their hands.
  - Extra masks will be available in the event that a registered visitor has not brought their own. However, registered visitors should strive to bring their own masks because supply of disposable masks may be limited, and in the event that the church is unable to provide a mask, registered visitors will not be able attend in-person service.

- Registered visitors will proceed directly to their seat as instructed by the Usher according to the pre-arranged seating chart. Appropriate seating locations will be marked. Registered visitors may sit next to their household/family contacts without distancing.
- Bathrooms will be open, but only one person should be in the restroom at a time. Wipes will be in each stall/bathroom and people must use them to wipe down the toilet handle, the door handle, the water taps, and any other surface they might have touched while using the bathroom.
- Registered visitors are encouraged to avoid removing their masks, even for brief periods.
- Offering may be placed in the designated baskets near the door before or after worship, as you enter/exit the building, or you may mail or submit online.

#### **PROTOCOLS ON SUNDAYS: During Worship**

- Communion will not be taken while in the sanctuary.
- Masks should remain on during all of worship, even for the pastor, liturgists and other participants in the service.
- No singing during the service or in the building.
- Live instrumental music is welcome and will be organized through the pastor and choir director. All musicians at the service must wear masks.

#### **PRTOCOLS ON SUNDAY: After Worship**

- Registered visitors will leave out the same door they came in, the handicap accessible door on the west side of the building.
- Avoid congregating in the parking lot or in the common areas of the building. Avoid hugs and handshakes. Keep conversations brief and maintain 6 feet distance
- There will be no congregating inside the sanctuary after service.
- There will not be fellowship time after worship.
- No other church spaces (except the bathroom) will be open for use.
- No one is allowed past the men's bathroom. No other offices or rooms are open.
- Collection will be placed in the safe by the pastor, with a witness, to be counted on Monday by Officer Manager.

# Volunteer Usher Duties for In-Person Worship During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Usher Duties

- Wear gloves and a mask
- Sanitize entrance/exit door handle before, during, and after worship
- Set out disposable masks and hand sanitizer near the entrance/exit
- Set out collection plate near the entrance exit
- Have on hand a list of registered visitors for that day's worship (provided by the Office Manager)
- Direct people to their assigned seats according to the seating chart for that day's worship (provided by the Office Manager)
- Remain in assigned seat during the worship service
- Accompany the Pastor to the office when she is securing the collection in the safe (a requirement of best ethical practices; the pastor and any volunteer handling church funds should always have a witness)
- Contact Pastor Nikki, 617-512-8692 or [pastornikki@angolaucc.org](mailto:pastornikki@angolaucc.org) to volunteer