

Welcome to Trinity's latest updates on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

Greetings Trinity,

A huge thank you to those who joined us this past weekend online or in person for Stewardship weekend! It was a blast! We celebrated the abundant gifts we have received from God as we worshipped, sang, prayed, made new friends, reconnected with old ones and of course ate hot dogs, donuts, popcorn, cookies and chips! The fellowship felt natural and really good.

This coming weekend we have worship at 5pm on Saturday, 8 and 10:45am on Sunday and Sunday School for all ages at 9:15.

Zoom Bible Study gathers on Tuesday evening at 7pm.

There is no Holden next week as it is the day before Thanksgiving.

The office will be closed on Thanksgiving and Friday, November 26.

Advent Vespers begin on Wednesday, December 1 at 7pm.

A few reminders as we move into the season of Advent.

All of our worship services are back in the sanctuary, and here are the guidelines we have in place:

Masks are required in the building, based on the CDC's Community Transmission level in Berks County still being graded as "high." We are still a community that is a mix of young and old, at risk and not yet able to be vaccinated. We will promote masks as a visible sign of our love and care for neighbor.

Some pews are still marked off to allow social distancing, as an additional level of safety for all who are in our building. Please do not remove the tape, these pews are marked off for your safety and comfort as well as the safety and comfort of those around you. This helps keep our space safe for all who enter.

Thank you for following these guidelines and helping Trinity to be a safe space for all who wish to worship inside. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we continue to make changes.

One note of apology and a request for grace. Last night we started streaming Holden Evening Prayer. We realized after worship ended that it only live streamed for 2 minutes and 19 seconds. Oops. We didn't notice until it was over that it happened. This is a gentle reminder that over the last 18 months we have learned how to livestream worship. We spend many months tweaking location and volume, learning a lot behind the scenes. When the only way to connect was online, this received much of our energy.

Please know, that we did this without a full-time person either volunteer or paid to make this happen. (Many other churches out there have tech people on their payroll.) I say that because as we resume worship together, we may not have the extra people to follow the livestream as we go, and in the event that we do, we may not be able to trouble shoot or solve the problem during worship. Worship will continue and we will do our best to live stream it. But this is where your patience and grace come in....we are doing all that we can and some days it may not be enough. Thanks for understanding.

One more thing for us to think about.

Yes, we are still worshipping with distancing and masks. Yes, there are many other groups, places and churches who have gone back to pre-pandemic settings.

But this is what I need you to know, and remember...

At the 10:45 service this past Sunday we gathered with just over 100 people. (It felt amazing.)

During the children's sermon over 20 kiddos came up. Over 20. Just let that sink in. Over 20 kids!

This 20+ group with us...is made up of youth who either have just been able to get their first vaccine or those even younger who are not yet eligible.

Think about it....20% of our late service attendance may not yet be vaccinated....and these are the ones we LOVE having in worship. Their music offering through their voices and chimes reminded us that who we are as church is the people that make up our time together.

We will continue to keep safety protocols in place that make this space safe for this 20% and any folks they interact with.

Friends, it's who we are called to be as the body of Christ. It's holy work, caring for others. Sometimes it's hard work, caring for others. But it's the work Christ calls us to do, together.

Thanks for being part of this mission.