

July 23, 2021

Dear Hunt's Church,

The time has come! We are thrilled to announce that **all worship services will return to the Sanctuary beginning on Sunday, August 1**. Throughout these past 15 months, you have been faithful, patient, and kind, consistent in supporting the mission and work of Hunt's Church while we took cautious steps to care for one another throughout the pandemic. While we are not yet fully post-pandemic, we are getting closer to that goal by science, vaccines, and the grace of God.

As we return to the sanctuary, here's what you can expect:

- Singing, Preaching, and Praying Together: Worship will include all those familiar elements that you know and love, and we hope that you will sing out as we worship God together.
- Masks Based on Vaccine Status: While vaccinated people are welcome to unmask indoors, all unvaccinated persons (including children and worship leaders) must remain masked. The adults working with children under 12 will also wear their masks, regardless of vaccination status, so they model safe behavior for our youngest members. This new masking policy applies to worship, choir, Sunday school, small groups, and all other activities on the Hunt's campus.
- **Relaxed Registration:** While we'll continue to track worship attendance, you will not need to pre-register.
- **Summer Schedule through Labor Day:** We'll hold worship at 10am each Sunday throughout the rest of the summer, alternating between Traditional and Contemporary music styles.
- Fall Kick Off on September 12: Mark your calendar to make sure you're here for this special Sunday! We're looking forward to the choir returning, and much more. Watch for details in the September newsletter.
- **Online Option:** The worship service will be recorded each week, and posted on the church's YouTube channel at <u>www.youtube.com/c/huntschurch</u>. Check after 2pm each Sunday to revisit the message and music!

These past few weeks have been filled with activity here at Hunt's. From some dramatic changes to our trees (thank you to the 40 people who came out to assist with cleanup!) to a joyous week of Vacation Bible School to the vibrant worship we've held on the Agape lawn, it's clear that Hunt's Church is more alive than ever. As we gather indoors again, here's what we ask:

- Wear a Mask if you are unvaccinated or if that's your preference. We will all strive to be compassionate and considerate toward one another as we come out of "pandemic mode" and gradually move toward our new normal.
- **Pray for Hunt's Church:** This is a time of great change and transition, and we are fully relying on God! Please pray for the unity and thriving of Hunt's Church as we navigate an unknown future.
- **Stay Home if You're Sick**: Please stay home and enjoy worship online if you or anyone you have had contact with has recently had a fever or has been ill.
- Let Us Know About COVID Testing: If you test positive for COVID after attending an indoor activity at Hunt's Church, please notify the office as soon as possible. We'll inform other attendees, keeping your name confidential.
- **Support Hunt's Church:** Your financial generosity has kept our church in a strong position throughout the past year. You can continue to give via mail or online at <u>www.huntsumc.org/stewardship</u>. Thank you for all your support!

We are so happy to welcome you back to your sanctuary, where we meet God and are transformed by the Holy Spirit. If you have any questions, please contact any of us, or Lay Leader Pegg Melfa (*peggm@aol.com*, 410-746-1827).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Rev. Carissa Surber

Sandra Rutan Reopening Task Force Chair

Barbara Anastasion

Worship Committee Chair

Pastor