

WORSHIP UPDATE FROM THE RE-ENTRY TEAM

Beginning the road back to in-building worship!



The Re-Entry Team and Church Council both met in mid-April with the result that we now have a timeline for our first worship service in the building.

Based on responses from the second Congregational Survey, we will begin an incremental (alternating week) pattern for May 2021. 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays will be on Zoom. 2nd and 4th Sundays will be in the Sanctuary.

There will be only one service each Sunday. Survey respondents were clear about their hope that a Zoom presence will continue at Zion for the time being. We have not yet figured out a way to do a hybrid Zoom service when we are in the building, so stay tuned for that. In the meantime, below is the May Worship Schedule:

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- May 2 – 10:00 am on ZOOM
- May 9 – 10:00 am in the SANCTUARY (ASCENSION OBSERVED)
- May 16 – 10:00 am on Zoom
- May 23 – 10:00 in the SANCTUARY (PENTECOST)
- May 30 – 10:00 am on Zoom

More details will be shared in the coming days on the website, *Published Glad Tidings*, and in worship announcements.

In addition to creating this next step in the re-entry plan, The Re-Entry Team created a document to help guide those who would like to gather in the sanctuary for a Funeral or Memorial Service. Due to the number of items to cover this month in *The Voice*, we will share this document here in June. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to Caitlin in the office if you'd like a copy and we will begin to make it available on the website soon as well.

Finally, we would like to share a summary of the Congregational Survey Results. Thanks to all (49 family units) who completed the second congregational survey. The Re-Entry Team reviewed all of the responses and comments. We are grateful for the time that was taken and the goodwill expressed. Zion is truly a remarkable community of faith.

Zion Second Congregational Survey
Completed 8-April-2021
Summary and Takeaways

> Participation and Response: 49 responses, fewer than first survey (79) but this time we allowed households to submit a single response if desired; good ratio (roughly 4:1) of those who have engaged with online options during pandemic and those who haven't. This seems reflective of active membership as a whole which increases our confidence that the data is a good sampling of the congregation.

> QUESTIONS 1 – 4: NA; related to who was filling out survey and whether or not they would like the pastor or someone else to reach out to them directly

> QUESTIONS 5 – 7: related to if/how respondents engaged with online opportunities during pandemic

Q5: Top items in which members engaged

- Joined live 10:00 Sunday on Zoom – 80% (36)
- Attended Parking Lot Communion service – 58% (26)
- Attended Midweek Services when offered – 47% (21)
- Watched YouTube Video of Zoom worship later – 38% (17) ** note, however, that our weekly views are significantly lower than this
- Watched one or both of the COVID Panels with parish nurses and staff – 33% (15) ** note, that the views for these panels is significantly higher than this
- Watched the Zion website for updates – 31% (14)

Q6: Top descriptions of virtual experience for those who engaged

- Hope we will continue an online presence as part of Zion's regular worship schedule – 70% (32)
- Loved being able to gather on Zoom/thankful for opportunity – 63% (29)
- Once we are back to in-person worship, there may still be times when would prefer to worship on Zoom – 54% (25)

Q7: Top reasons didn't engage with virtual options – all at 20% (2)

- Didn't think would like it
- Spend too much time online in daily life
- Have been worshipping elsewhere in person during pandemic

Key takeaways: Zoom, Parking Lot, and YouTube have been working well for those who have engaged with these options. Those who didn't engage had reasons that would have made them unlikely to change their minds based on changes we might have made to online offerings. A continued virtual presence for Zion of some kind is a priority (see also questions 9 and 10).

> QUESTION 8: related to how people are feeling about re-entry

- Somewhat comfortable; ready to return with reasonable safety precautions in place – 47% (21)
- Very comfortable; ready to return now because have been vaccinated – 24% (11)
- Will be cautious about return for some time yet – 13% (6)
- Very comfortable; ready to return now even though haven't been vaccinated – 9% (4)
- Will be ready once I get the vaccine – 2% (5)

Key takeaway: Zion seems simultaneously ready and cautious. A total of 80% of respondents are very or somewhat ready to return to in-building worship now; 15% are cautious/hesitant. Two comments worth noting: 1) consider trial Sunday “and see how it goes” and 2) “I can hear better online than in building.” Community may be open to an incremental launch of in-building options.

> QUESTIONS 9 and 10: related to continued value of Zoom or similar online presence for Zion

Q9: asking the value of Zoom for congregation in general – 98% (43) saw value

Q10: asking personal preference for Zoom, in-person, or both

- Both – 58% (27)
- In-person – 39% (18)
- Zoom – 2% (1)

Key takeaway: Zion will likely want to continue Zoom or some similar option, at least for the near future.

> QUESTIONS 11 and 12: related to willingness to attend at alternate times/days

Q11: willing in order to accommodate both in-person and Zoom options?

- Yes – 49% (22)
- Not Sure – 40% (18)
- No – 11% (5)

Q12: willing in order to spread out and allow more people in worship space?

- Yes – 59% (26)
- Not Sure – 27% (12)
- No – 14% (6)

Key takeaway: With compelling reason, most people are open to being flexible at least for the near future.

> QUESTIONS 13 – 16: related to precautions willing to take to be in-person (in-building)

Q13: in terms of general building guidelines, in addition to wearing masks:

- most people (76% - 80%) willing to: sit/stand with 6-foot distance; avoid shaking hands, etc.; avoid crowding in hallways/rest rooms (allowing additional space between people in these locations); use hand sanitizer

- fewer people (24%) would want to wait until after worship to eat/drink communion
- Comments of note: prefer individual communion cups; will follow ever-changing CDC guidelines to insure maximum safety for all; won't be attending group activities anytime soon; if too many precautions, will just stay on Zoom; whatever is needed to keep everyone safe

Q14: in terms of worship/small group elements:

- most people (67% - 90%) willing to be distanced; use hand sanitizer in pews; avoid shaking hands for peace; use new method for distribution of communion; use methods of entry/exit that do not require touching door handles
- many people (46% - 57%) willing to use new methods for collecting offering; use one-way foot traffic into/out of building; limit handouts if necessary
- few people (17%) willing to allow longer time between services when applicable
- Comment of note: question raised about which doors fire marshal allows to be open; this should not impact worship as survey only relates to external doors and doors to room 200 (which are always open on Sundays); all other fire doors throughout building would be closed in compliance

Q15: attendance level comfortable with:

- half filled (most people have empty seats beside them OR in front/behind them – 39% (18)
- assigned seating areas to designate social distancing – 26% (12)
- three-quarter filled (some empty seats throughout but no empty rows) – 13% (6)
- one-quarter filled (most people have empty seats BOTH beside AND in front/behind them – 11% (5)
- not comfortable with any of these, at least not right away – 9% (4)
- filled to capacity (no restrictions; all available seats may be taken) – 2% (1)

Q16: would still attend if singing, peace, offering limited or restricted?

- yes – 73% (32)
- would worship on Zoom until able to do these things – 20% (9)
- no – 7% (3)

Key takeaways: people are prepared to make reasonable accommodations and are aware that the recommendations/guidelines are subject to change; for now, we will not require advance notice or RSVP for those attending worship, but we will want to keep an eye on the capacity; we will use the most up-to-date guidance for items like singing, communion, and bulletins, but after our conversation at the Re-Entry Team meeting, we actually think many of these elements may be less restrictive than people expect.