

Vineyard Altoona guidance for returning to in-person worship gatherings, Phase 1

07/03/2020 Rev. 1

All Vineyard Altoona gatherings will be subject to [Centers for Disease Control\(CDC\)](#) and [Pennsylvania Department of Health\(PADOH\)](#) guidelines. Any conflict between those guidelines and anything within this document will be resolved by the aforementioned guidelines.

Because we recognize there will be some who are not yet ready to gather in-person, Vineyard Altoona will continue to utilize the Zoom meeting platform for those who wish to participate from home. The link will be the same for these meetings as it has been during the periods of quarantine. You can find that [here](#). Beginning July 19, 2020, our Sunday worship gatherings will transition to a live stream on YouTube. That link will be posted on our website and on Facebook.

For everyone who wishes to gather for our in-person worship gatherings, here are the guidelines we will implement. We will be meeting outdoors under the portico at the Wright Place for Kids.

Before you come:

- There are some who are more susceptible to infection. These people include people with pre-existing health concerns as well as those who are older. Even though Vineyard Altoona intends to be as cautious and deliberate about providing a safe environment, we cannot guarantee with 100% certainty that you won't come into contact with COVID-19. If you are concerned about that, we want you to feel comfortable choosing the online option.
- If you have any reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19 or you have any symptoms of sickness, for the sake of everyone in the community, please stay home, and participate through the online option.
- We will have chairs, bibles, and communion supplies which we will handle with precautions to reduce the possibility of infection spread, but if you are concerned about infection through any of these things, please feel free to bring your own.
- The bathrooms will be available, but it may be a good idea to visit your own before you come in order to reduce your exposure to indoor environments.
- If you like having coffee and food during our worship gatherings, please bring your own. We will not have these items available until such time as we can do it safely.
- We will be outside, but under shade. Please take environmental factors into account as you dress.

Vineyard Altoona guidance for returning to in-person worship gatherings, Phase 1

07/03/2020 Rev. 1

When you arrive:

- We will practice social distance. This has many implications for how we will function. There will be representative chalk lines on the ground so you have an idea of how far 6 feet is. As you set up your chair, please just be respectful of those around you.
- Being outside significantly lowers our risk in virus transmission, but as a church, we do things that are riskier than just walking around. Singing and prolonged speaking have both been identified as risky behaviors. Because of this, we require those in attendance to wear masks in accordance with Governor Wolf's order from 7/1/20. [Here is a link.](#)

When you look at the specifics in the order, there are a few things of significance:

1. The order requires a mask to be worn when you are outside **and** unable to maintain a 6-foot distance from others who are not within your household.
2. Masks are required anywhere inside.
3. Masks are not required for people who cannot wear them due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, mental health condition, or disability. People with these conditions are **not** required to provide proof.

This is really just a way for us to show kindness to those around us. We will have some available for you if you need.

- We will not be passing an offering basket. Our preference would be that you would continue to use the online giving option. You can give online through [this link](#), or you can text any dollar amount to 84321, which will guide you through a brief setup the first time. If you would prefer to give physical money or a check, we have a box you can place that in.
- There will be a table with communion elements, worship lyrics, hand sanitizer, and a closed box for offering. Please visit this table for anything you need, but please keep distance from others who visit the table.
- The bathrooms will be available with a limit of one person or family in at a time. We will disinfect them before anyone arrives, and there will be wipes if you would like to ensure things are sterile before you use it.

Vineyard Altoona guidance for returning to in-person worship gatherings, Phase 1

07/03/2020 Rev. 1

- Kids ministry will be online through a provided Zoom link after the worship gathering ends. If there are kids in attendance, it will be possible for them to be present for the online kids lesson.
- Prayer ministry is a challenge during times of distance. We will still pray for people, but we will do so with distance and mask precautions in place.

As we re-engage with in-person gatherings, we are all learning as we go. There may be things that you don't like or are different, but we would ask that you attend with grace and respect. We are doing the best we are able to balance our community's desire to gather with compassion for those who are vulnerable to exposure to the virus.

We really look forward to seeing you Sunday at 10:30am!