



St. Andrew's Church
Phase 3 Re-entry Plan and the resumption of in-person worship

June 23, 2021

Dear friends:

The Michigan bishops will move our churches into Phase 3 of the Re-entry plan later this summer. You can see the full plan at <https://www.edomi.org/covid-19-guidelines/>

A phased re-opening at St. Andrew's will begin with the resumption of three weekly in-person services. We will start with the Wednesday 7:00 am Eucharist on July 28, the Friday 12:15 pm Eucharist on July 30, and one Sunday service at 9:00 am on August 1. Through Labor Day weekend we will continue to record Morning Prayer services and post those to YouTube as we have since June 2020. It has been a long time since we have gathered in our building. As we prepare to resume our in-person liturgical life there are safety and technical logistics that still need to be worked out which we will spend the final weeks of summer doing.

After Labor Day we will return to our regular three Sunday morning service schedule, with music at the 10:00 am service which will be live-streamed on YouTube. Compline will be sung on the first and third Sunday evening of the month. Wednesday Evensong services will begin on September 8. Because of the more intimate nature of anointing at the Healing Service, that Thursday service will be kept on hold at this time.

Some things you can initially expect as we restart in-person services:

- Masks will need to be worn while inside the church and removed only for communion. A supply of masks and hand sanitizer will be available at the doors.
- Wafers will be used for the communion bread. Wine will not be offered. We will return to offering the regular communion bread and the chalice as soon as the health situation allows.
- Communion will be distributed at the foot of the chancel steps. Ushers will direct you to form a single line down the center aisle as you approach the altar.
- Bulletins will be produced for each service and placed at the entrance, those that are not taken home will be recycled.
- Offering plates will not be passed but placed in the aisle to receive your offering as you come to communion.

All these measures are subject to change as the health situation evolves. They are designed to protect all of you, especially vulnerable populations who are not able to take the Covid vaccine and children for whom it is not yet available. Please do your part by being cooperative, and if you have not yet received a vaccine and are eligible, I encourage you to do so.

Church School and the Family Service will also resume in September with families encouraged to register their children on-line starting in early August. It is important that all families register their children so we can prepare



necessary safety protocols for our gatherings. A separate communication will be sent to Church School families and further information will be made available on the website throughout the summer.

The Breakfast will continue serving a daily take-out meal with prepackaged foods. We hope that by the time the weather begins to cool off our guests and volunteers can be welcomed back into the parish hall dining room. As always, the safety of everyone involved with the Breakfast is our primary concern and will determine the timing of returning indoors.

I thank you for your flexibility and patience over the past 16 months. I am especially grateful to the volunteers and staff who have stepped forward and worked in new, different, and challenging ways to keep St. Andrew's programs and liturgies available to our community. The faith and faithfulness of all of you have helped bring us to this turning point. While the pandemic is not fully behind us, we can look forward to returning to many of the things we treasure about St. Andrew's. I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

God bless,

The Reverend Alan Gibson