



April 29, 2021

Dear St. John's Church Family,

Over the past year, we as Vestry in coordination with our Clergy and COVID-19 Task Force have worked to keep our congregation safe and informed during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate the support and prayer you have offered during this unprecedented and uncertain time.

In October of 2020, the COVID-19 Task Force presented a policy to the Vestry that was approved and shared with the congregation outlining a plan for a return to in-person worship with safety protocols to prevent a potential COVID-19 outbreak. This plan was based on the best possible science on virus transmission and on community-based spread in our region.

The nature of the ongoing pandemic has been dynamic. Each day we are seeing advancements in our understanding of the virus as well as how to prevent the spread. We have also seen the development and launch of multiple highly effective vaccines that are now widely available to the general population. With these multiple variables under consideration, the COVID-19 Task Force now recommends the following:

1. Unequivocally, the St. John's COVID Task Force recommends all congregants get vaccinated against COVID-19 with any available vaccine as soon as possible.
2. The October 2020 COVID-19 policy has become less relevant and needs to be adjusted. St. John's will now focus on implementing COVID-19 safe practices for indoor worship and encourage and assist with vaccination for congregants.
3. **We are planning for indoor, in-person services in the Nave each Sunday at 10:00 AM beginning on May 23, 2021, which is Pentecost Sunday.** The previously developed COVID-19 safer worship practices of wearing masks, limited number in attendance, no congregational singing, etc. will be implemented and adjusted as needed when the Vestry deems safe to do so.
4. To facilitate worship for congregants who are unable to attend or are uncomfortable with a return to in-person gatherings, **the 10:00 AM service in the Nave will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.** This is a departure from Zoom worship. Coffee hour following worship will continue with Zoom to provide a virtual fellowship opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 safety including but not limited to vaccine availability or the procurement of personal protection equipment please contact the church office at 423-926-8141.

Most of all, thank you for your trust and patience as we work to implement changes to in-person worship that will keep us all safe. All precautions are taken with consideration of the best available science and to our responsibility to love one another as God loves us. We will all work to keep each other safe in worship during this still still-uncertain time. Please refer to the “This Week at St. John’s” email each Friday for news and announcements and reservation information for the remaining Sundays in the Easter season and beyond.

Sincerely,

The Clergy and Vestry and COVID-19 Task Force of St. John’s Episcopal Church
Johnson City, Tennessee

Schedule of Upcoming Services

5th Sunday of Easter - May 2

9:00 AM Service of the Word (Zoom)

10:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)

11:15 AM Celebration of Holy Communion - Meredith Pavilion at Winged Deer Park

6th Sunday of Easter May - 9

9:00 AM Service of the Word (Zoom)

10:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)

11:15 AM Celebration of Holy Communion - Meredith Pavilion at Winged Deer Park

7th Sunday of Easter - May 16

9:00 AM Service of the Word (Zoom)

10:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)

6:00 PM Bishop Visit with Celebration of Holy Communion and Confirmation

No. 2 Pavilion at Metro Kiwanis Park

Feast of Pentecost - May 23

10:00 AM Celebration of Holy Communion in the Nave (Livestream to Social Media)

11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)