

FAQs – Reopening 2021

UPDATE: 5/14/2021 Today the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that people fully vaccinated against Covid-19 do not need to wear masks or practice physical distancing in virtually all indoor and outdoor settings.

Please note that these guidelines have not yet been officially accepted and changed in California or Contra Costa County.

UNITY OF WALNUT CREEK IS STAYING UP TO DATE WITH THE EVER-EVOLVING GUIDELINES. PLEASE CONTINUE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEW INFORMATION AT www.unityofwalnutcreek.org.

1. **What is UWC doing to prepare for reopening?**

We are closely following government and health recommendations by listening to guidance and counsel from our Reopening Committee advisors. (The advisors of the Reopening Committee have kept up to date with the changing government and health guidelines since the start of the pandemic.) In addition, we are:

- a. Hosting our first onsite Sunday service on May 9 at 9:30am.
- b. Arranging the grounds for safe social distancing protocols.
- c. Having our facilities professionally cleaned.
- d. Sanitizing the bathrooms and other common areas.
- e. Cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces regularly.
- f. Creating signage to inform and instruct attendees.
- g. Training staff and volunteers on safety protocols.
- h. Overseeing pre-registration for Sunday service attendees.
- i. Staying in prayer and faith with the Divine as we encourage all members to do.
- j. Communicating with our members.

2. **What are the phases of reopening at UWC?**

Unity is following a steady, phased approach to opening our campus for events and gatherings.

- a. The first phase is focused on hosting onsite 9:30 am Sunday services while continuing to livestream our 11:30am services. The first casual, outdoor 9:30am Sunday service for 70 attendees was held on May 9. The Children's Program is also gradually being phased in starting at 11:30am on Sunday, May 9. As we learn from these early experiences, we will reopen more activities as guidelines allow.

2. What are the phases of reopening at UWC (Cont'ed)?

- b. The second phase will focus on small groups returning to the campus for outdoor classes and events beginning in late May.
- c. The third phase may include inviting a physically distanced group back into the sanctuary during the Sunday service livestream; small groups will return indoors when it is safe to do so. Eventually, live music will be added back into the sanctuary.
- d. In the last phase, we will allow outside groups interested in renting our facility space, and finally allow the sharing of food at events.

3. How long will UWC be in these reopening phases?

We don't have a specific date established for a complete reopening because we want to adhere to the safest requirements and come to the best decisions for all members, as conditions change and improve. Please know that communication and requests for input from members will be sent out via email and / or Unity Connects. Keep an eye out to stay up-to-date and participate by sharing your suggestions and ideas.

4. When will things be back to "normal?"

This will depend on the overall improvement of conditions surrounding COVID including how vaccination rates are proceeding, and how recommended safety guidelines change.

5. How are staff preparing?

Staff members are being trained and continuously updated with information and details researched by the Reopening Committee. Staff members are creating processes and checklists of activities to prepare for different types of onsite events and attendee groups.

6. How are volunteers being prepared?

Volunteers are required to attend training before resuming their onsite volunteer role. Please contact the office at 925-937-2191 or office@unityofwalnutcreek.org if you have more questions about your particular volunteer role or if you would like to volunteer.

7. Who is able to attend services, classes and events hosted at Unity of Walnut Creek?

Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, you are welcome and invited to attend any in-person events, classes or services held at Unity of Walnut Creek by registering in advance. Please read below for more information before attending. Unity is taking a thoughtful and considered approach to reopening the 1871 Geary Road campus to our members and guests. We are following strict guidelines for everyone's safety.

8. What do I need to do to prepare for attending an in-person event, class or service?

- a. Register for the event online by visiting www.unityofwalnutcreek.org.
- b. If you choose, get a COVID vaccination.
- c. Educate yourself about COVID and best health hygiene practices, social distancing and other related safety protocols and guidelines.
- d. Plan to bring a mask.
- e. Plan to bring sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and water to protect yourself from the sun.
- f. Plan to bring hand sanitizer.

9. What do I need to do in order to attend in-person services?

We require pre-registration, including an Informed Consent Form, for outdoor Sunday Services starting May 9 at 9:30am. There will be 70 spaces available for attendees. Registration opens on Sundays by 1pm and closes on Fridays at 3pm for the week. Please visit our web site for details about in-person services and updated information at www.unityofwalnutcreek.org.

10. What do I need to do while I am attending an in-person service?

- a. Wear a mask at all times while on the grounds and be sure that your mask fully covers your nose and mouth. We ask and advise that you do not take off your mask until you reach your car or are away from the rest of the community after leaving. Note: If you happen to forget your mask, we will have one available for you.
- b. Bring a chair if you are able. If not, please make your request during pre-registration by answering "yes" where indicated.
- c. Bring sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and water.
- d. Hand sanitizer will be provided, and you are encouraged to bring your own.

10. What do I need to do while I am attending an in-person service (continued)?

- e. Contra Costa Health Services has advised us that public gatherings may still present an increased possibility of contracting COVID, even if safety precautions are taken. We ask you to consider if you are prepared to participate, if it may increase the risk for yourself and your family.
- f. For safety reasons, we also ask that attendees leave campus immediately after the service ends. For those who would like to socialize further, it's a short walk to nearby Larkey Park.
- g. *Note: If you have not pre-registered you will not be admitted for safety reasons.*

11. Will we be able to hug friends?

Unfortunately, physical contact such as hugging, or handshaking will not be allowed due to safety guidelines. And as always, we ask that everyone stay at least 6 feet apart to adhere to safe distancing practices. If you'd like to visit with friends, we suggest meeting at Larkey Park.

12. What if someone at the campus refuses to take social distancing precautions? Who do I talk to and what do I do?

You may gently remind the person of the precautions or communicate the situation to a volunteer or staff member. If you are not comfortable initiating a conversation, a volunteer or staff member will have a conversation with the person or people involved. Please keep your distance and stay safe.

13. What if I don't pre-register but go to the campus for services?

Unfortunately, in order to follow protocols, set forth by our insurance company and the county, we will have to turn you away. This is for your safety as well as others and why we are encouraging all members to pre-register, so that we can all understand and adhere to the expectations and guidelines.

14. Where do I find the most up-to-date information about the current status of services, classes and events?

Please check the web site for up-to-date information at www.unityofwalnutcreek.org We will also be sending communication to members via email.

15. How are the county, state, and federal government, including CDC guidelines, involved in decision making?

These organizations provided the foundation for our decisions, as they are based in science, and allow for the safest scenarios for all involved.

16. Why do I have to wear a mask?

For safety purposes. COVID is transmitted through droplets in the air. We require everyone to wear a mask to prevent transmission, along with keeping 6-feet safely distanced and following healthy hygiene practices such as frequently washing hands and using hand sanitizer.

17. Why do I have to follow distance and mask protocols if I'm vaccinated?

After prayerful consideration, Unity's Reopening Task Force and Board of Trustees agreed that treating our entire community as if no one has been vaccinated was the most inclusive approach to reunite in-person. There are people in our congregation who choose not to get vaccinated for their own personal or health reasons and we want to respect their decision. We did not want to require that vaccination cards be shown. Our intent is to create a safe and inclusive space for all.

18. What if I feel sick?

We recommend staying home and checking in with your doctor with the symptoms you are experiencing. You may be directed to have a COVID test and if you test positive you will be asked to quarantine for a period of time. Please see links below to learn more about COVID.

19. What are some helpful internet links to help me educate myself on COVID precautions and guidelines?

We recommend visiting the site below for local information:
<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7766/COVID-19-Information>

20. What are healthy hygienic practices?

- a. Wearing a mask
- b. Frequent hand washing
- c. Keeping a 6-foot social distance from others
- d. Limiting contact with people based on vaccination guidelines

21. Where do I get vaccinated and tested for COVID?

We encourage you to talk with your doctor and to educate yourself about COVID. Below is information from the Contra Costa County. We also encourage you to research other reputable sites on the internet.

- a. Testing
 - a. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested>
- b. Vaccinations
 - a. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine>

22. Who do I talk with about specific questions? How do I get in touch with them?

Feel free to contact UWC office or email:

- a. (925) 937-2191
- b. office@unityofwalnutcreek.org

23. What if I need support? Who can I talk with?

Please call or email the UWC office. Prayer chaplains are also available for support.

- a. (925) 937-2191
- b. office@unityofwalnutcreek.org
- c. <https://www.unityofwalnutcreek.org/prayer-request>