

Congregational Survey Results

survey opened 04/21/2021 closed on 05/03/2021

Number of Respondents: 24

Of the 24 ... 9 of them have a spouse and/or children for whom they were likely responding as well as themselves

During the pandemic, virtual worship has been: *

Very important 66.7% or 16 responses
Somewhat important 25% or 6 responses
less important 0%
did not connect with me 8.3% or 2 responses
my new way to worship going forward 0%

Having limited (reservation only) in-person worship opportunities in the sanctuary as COVID-19 rates decline and vaccination rates increase is: *

Very important 54.2% or 13 responses
Somewhat important 33.3% or 8 responses
Less important 8.3% or 2 responses
Not safe until we achieve herd immunity 4.2% or 1 response
In-person worship does not meet my needs 0%

Which best describes your current attitude toward returning to in-person worship in the sanctuary at Avondale? *

I will return the first opportunity we have. 50% or 12 responses
I will return at first opportunity but with some concerns and precautions. 41% or 10 responses
I will wait several additional weeks before I attend. 8.3% or 2 responses
It may be quite a while before I return. 0%
Not sure

What precautions, if any, do you plan to take when you return to a worship service? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY) *

I will wear a face mask 100% or 24 responses
I will stand and sit in places where I will be at least 6 feet from others (beyond my own family) ... 87.5% or 21 responses
I will avoid shaking hands 87.5% or 21 responses
I will avoid physical contact 75% or 18 responses
I will avoid crowded hallways 66.7% or 16 responses

I will use hand sanitizer 87.5% or 21 responses
All of this feels a bit extreme 4.2% or 1 response

What precautions, if any, do you expect our church to take for worship gatherings? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY) *

Limit handouts of any kind (e.g. worship bulletins, etc.) 25% or 6 responses
Use a new method for distributing Communion elements 79.2% or 19 responses
Use a new method for receiving offerings 62.5% or 15 responses
Enforce social/physical distancing in sanctuary seating 79.2% or 19 responses
Set up one-way foot traffic entering and exiting the building and sanctuary 41.7% or 10 responses
Dismiss by families or rows in order to keep social/physical distancing at all times 33.3% or 8 responses
Discourage shaking hands 62.5% or 15 responses
None of these 0%
Other (please specify below) 4.2% or 1 response

Other precautions:

I prefer virtual services, if we have to do all of that
CDC recommendation
Will support any and all Church protocols for inside worship
Accessibly placed hand sanitizers

Which of the following describes the attendance level at which you would be comfortable attending a worship service in our sanctuary? *

Filled to capacity (every seat taken) 4.2% or 1 response
Three-quarters filled (some empty seats throughout but no empty rows) 8.3% or 2 responses
Half filled (most people have empty seats either beside them or in front of them) 66.7% or 16 responses
One quarter filled (most people have empty seats beside them and in front of them) 16.7% or 4 responses
None of these (I'm not comfortable worshipping inside yet) 4.2% or 1 response

Would you be willing to RSVP for a worship service in order to ensure the services remain under required capacities? *

Yes 91.7%
No 0%
Not sure 8.3% or 2 responses

Do you feel comfortable with congregational singing if people are masked? *

Yes 70.8% or 17 responses

No 12.5% or 3 responses

Not sure 16.7% or 4 responses

Have you received a COVID-19 Vaccination? *

Yes 95.8% or 23 responses

No 4.2% or 1 response

If no, do you plan to receive a COVID-19 Vaccination when you're able? *

Yes 4.2% or 1 response

No 0%

I've already received the vaccine 95.8% or 23 responses

Do you need assistance in finding a vaccination appointment?

Yes 0%

No 100%

Do you feel comfortable worshipping if *

50% of the congregation have been vaccinated? 45.8% or 11 responses

80% of the congregation have been vaccinated? 33.3% or 8 responses

100% of the congregation have been vaccinated? 12.5% or 3 responses

Not sure the answer to this 4.2% or 1 response

Other (comment below) 4.2% or 1 response

If you could choose the start time for worship on Sunday morning that is most conducive for you and/or your family, which would you prefer? *

9:00 4.2% or 1 response

9:30 0%

10:00 50% or 12 responses

10:30 12.5% or 3 responses

11:00 12.5% or 3 responses

Anytime Sunday morning is fine by me 16.7% or 4 responses

10 or 11 4.2% or 1 responses

How long should a worship service last to effectively connect you to God and the body of Christ? *

- 45 mins 37.5% or 9 responses
- 1 hour 20.8% or 5 responses
- > 1 hour 4.2% or 1 person
- time is not important 37.5% or 9 responses

What are your expectations for Nursery and Children's Church? *

- I think we should offer Nursery and Children's Church as soon as possible. 25% or 6 responses
- I think we should hold off on Nursery and Children's Church for a while longer. 0%
- I am unsure. 16.7% or 4 responses
- I do not have children or grandchildren who attend Avondale, and therefore, defer to best practices determined by the church. 58.3% or 14 responses

For families with children ages 4 and older, how important is it to you to have Children's Church available when we return to Worship in the Sanctuary? FYI ... Children's Church is when the children leave worship at a designated time to go with Mrs. Randi and another trusted adult volunteer for an interactive Bible lesson.

- Very important 16.7% or 4 responses
- Less important 8.3% or 2 responses
- I don't yet feel safe because of COVID having my child(ren) gather with others when I'm not there. ... 4.2% or 1 response
- I don't think the children should be dismissed from worship because they learn the importance of worship by being in worship 0%
- Does not apply 70.8% or 17 responses

For families with children ages 3 and under, how important is it to you to have Nursery available when we return to Worship in the Sanctuary?

- Very important 8.3% or 2 responses
- Less important 0%
- I don't yet feel safe because of COVID having my child(ren) gather with others when I'm not there. 0%
- Does not apply 91.7% or 22 responses

If Children's Church could be offered during worship, I would be willing to volunteer to assist once every four to six weeks.

Yes 66.7%

No 33.3%

What THREE elements of worship most consistently offer God's grace and God's challenge? *

Liturgy (prayers, confessions, creeds, scripture lessons) 45.8% or 11 responses

Music (hymns, anthems, solos) 12.5% or 3 responses

Children's Moments 12.5% or 3 responses

Sacramental Moments (holy communion, baptism, confirmation) 16.7% or 4 responses

Sermons (homilies, special speakers, guest preachers) 50% or 12 responses

All of the above. 50% or 12 responses

None of the above. 0%

Other Comments / Suggestions

- I feel like our congregation is so small, if enough people are vaccinated we would still have plenty of room to spread out and be safe. I would not be too worried, unless the vaccines prove ineffective.
- I appreciate all efforts being made to return to in-house services.
- Just an idea... What about people using the upper deck? This may be overkill, but it would help with distancing. Maybe it could be an option for those being extra careful.
- "Thank you" for your leadership during these particularly challenging times. Our faith community is well served by you, Malinda.
- I'm ready to meet inside. I think as long as masks are worn indoors, it will be as safe as outdoors. There is plenty of room in the sanctuary to social distance and the AC circulates the air as much as being outside on a non-windy day. Also, I think almost all the people that are most susceptible have been vaccinated. I have no problem wearing a mask.
- Thank you Avondale UMC for all of your efforts during the pandemic. Your hard work is much appreciated!
- Malinda has done a fantastic job adjusting to the constraints the pandemic has caused.
- I am willing and able to deep clean!