

March 2022 Report from Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W) on the Status of Worship to the March 20th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Small group worship continues in a variety of settings (inside the meetinghouse at 8:15 and 11:00 AM, by Zoom at 11:00 AM, and at Carol Woods at 11:00 AM.) Friends decide for themselves what First Day option best meets their needs for safety and well-being.

Current conditions in Orange County indicate a “medium” level of risk of Coronavirus transmission. With consideration of the risk level and guidance from the local Coalition of Clergy at the beginning of March, M&W recommends continuation of enhanced ventilation in the meeting room and masking on the Meeting property. Reminder: N95 or KN95 masks are available at the meetinghouse.

One change in practice is recommended by the committee. To overcome hearing challenges while window fans are in operation, a Friend sharing vocal ministry or serving as closer is encouraged to lower the mask while talking, only. The ongoing enhanced air exchange and social distancing are deemed sufficient to offset brief mask lowering for clearer speech.

Regarding worship in person and on Zoom, the Zoom Subcommittee, under the care of M&W, provided a second trial run of a “blended” meeting for worship on March 13 at 11:00. M&W issued a survey for in-person and online attenders for ratings of the worship experience. M&W followed with a Meeting listening session on March 16 to hear more insights about combining in-person and online worship. The committee is grateful to the Zoom Subcommittee for its detailed preparation and skill in utilizing borrowed equipment for testing and conducting the trial runs. M&W will take time and care to review survey responses and notes from the listening session to begin a process of discernment of a recommendation to bring to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Friends are reminded that Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light continues under the guidance of the Care and Counsel Committee. The prayers/holding takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of the month, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. . . . from your own home. The prayer list continues throughout the month and then is refreshed at the start of the next month. To add to or remove a name from the list, email: prayers@chapelhillfriends.org. We thank the Care & Counsel Committee and Matt and Lynn Drake for sustaining this opportunity.

Also, worship outdoors will resume on March 20th and 27th, located at the east side of the Schoolhouse toward the back of the building. A sign will be posted by the magnolia tree in front of the Meetinghouse to guide folks to the new location. It is hoped that this will be a quieter space for worship. The two dates will serve as an experiment to determine whether outside worship is viable now.

As always, the committee values and invites your comments this morning or anytime via ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

March 20, 2022

Ministry & Worship Committee

Jeff Brown, clerk, Madelyn Ashley, Alice Carlton, Matt Drake, Dottie Heninger, Carolyn White and Chris Stanley, ex officio