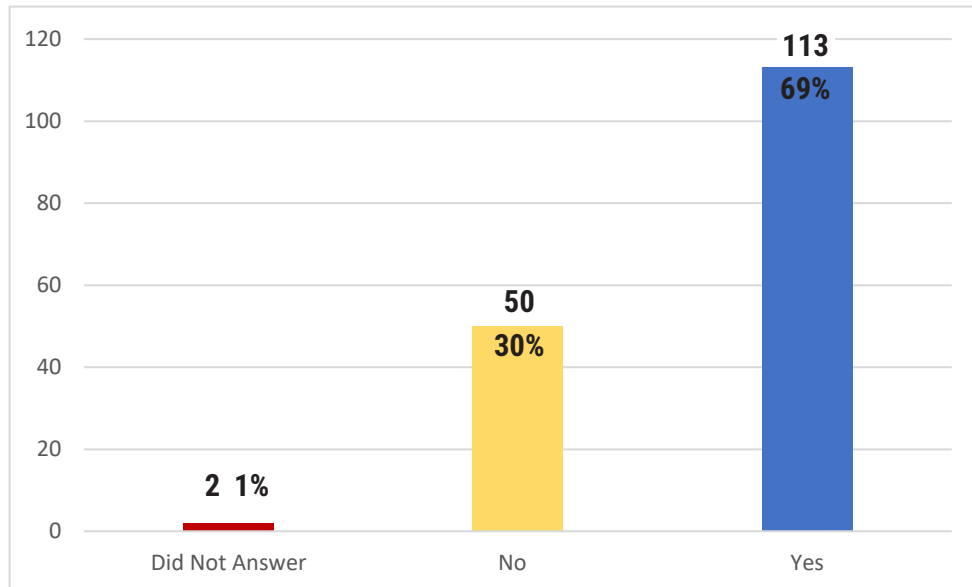


HCT Survey Results

165 surveys completed

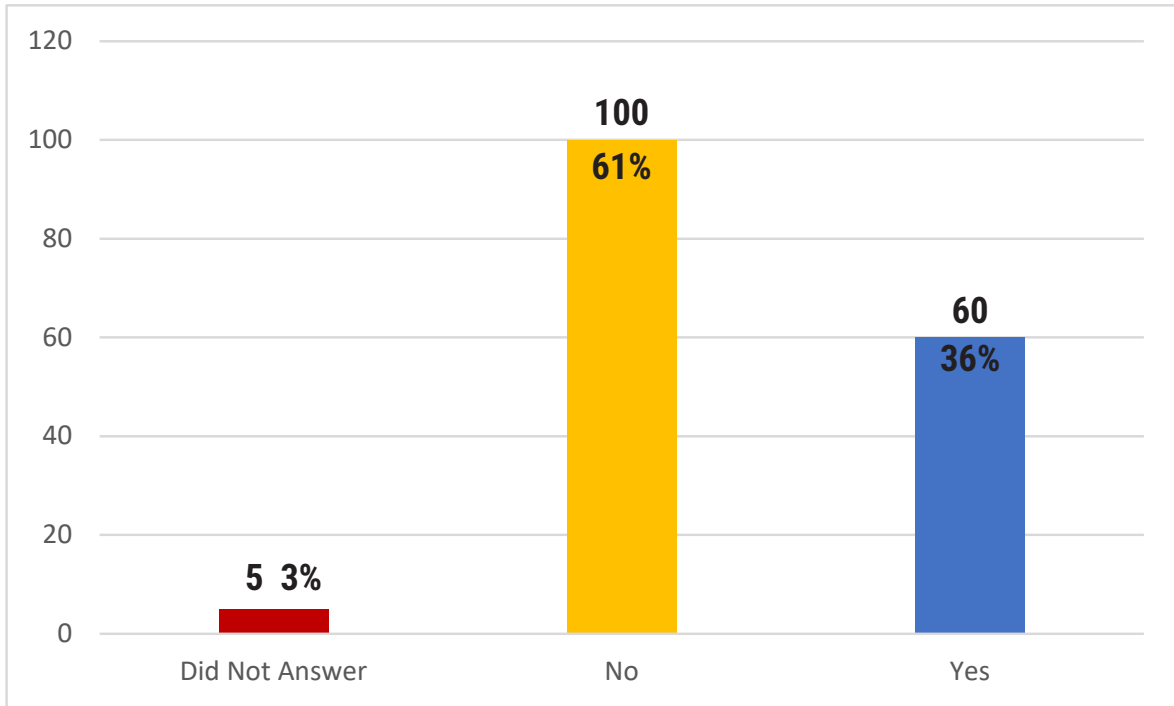
Do you believe that Trinity should **continue to maintain mask requirements** until the Henrico County level of COVID-19 transmission moves to “moderate” or “low” levels as defined by the CDC?



Should masks stay? (sorted by service and age group)

	Yes	No	No Answer	Grand Total
9:00 AM	34	21	1	56
31-40	8	3		11
41-50	6	3		9
51-60	4	2	1	7
61+	15	13		28
under 20	1			1
11:00 In Person	28	16		44
31-40		2		2
41-50	3	3		6
51-60	5	4		9
61+	20	7		27
11:00 Livestream	42	3		45
20-30	1			1
31-40	2			2
41-50	2	1		3
51-60	8	1		9
61+	29	1		30
None (do not attend worship)	8	8		16
41-50		1		1
51-60	1	1		2
61+	7	6		13
No Answer	1	2	1	4
61+	1	2		3
No Answer			1	1
Grand Total	113	50	2	165

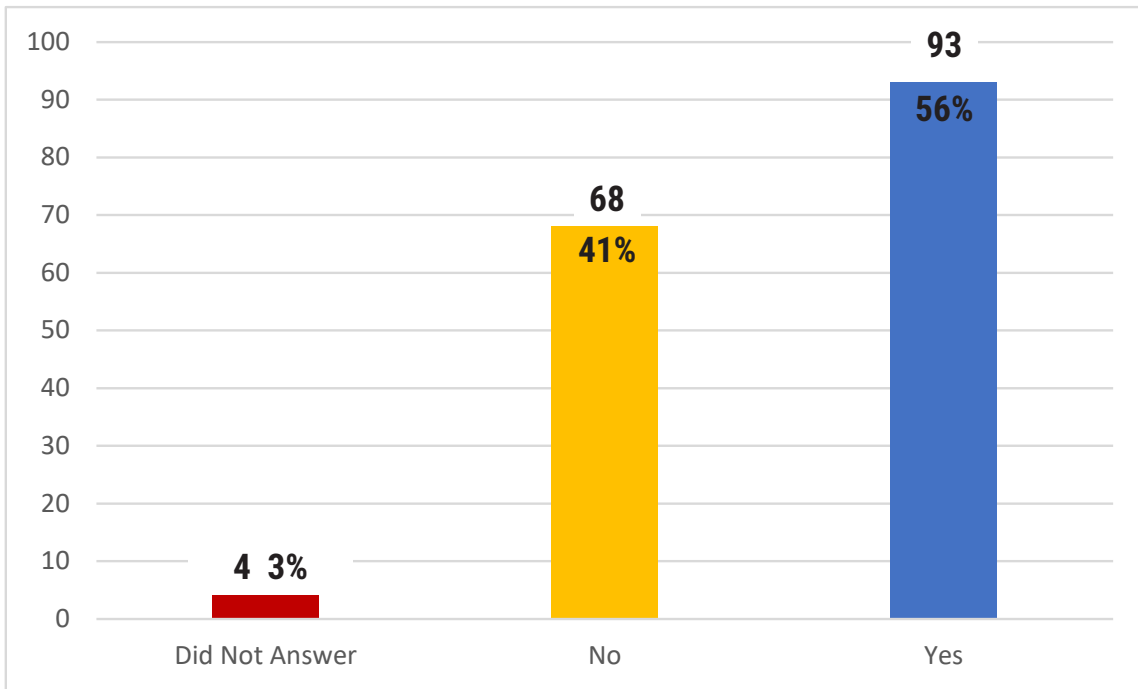
If the mask requirements are removed at Trinity, will you **be LESS likely to worship in person** and participate in church activities indoors?



Less Likely?

Row Labels	Yes	No	No Answer	Grand Total
9:00 AM	16	38	2	56
31-40	5	6		11
41-50	4	4	1	9
51-60	1	5	1	7
61+	6	22		28
under 20		1		1
11:00 In Person	11	32	1	44
31-40		2		2
41-50		6		6
51-60	2	7		9
61+	9	17	1	27
11:00 Livestream	27	18		45
20-30		1		1
31-40		2		2
41-50	2	1		3
51-60	5	4		9
61+	20	10		30
None (do not attend worship)	5	10	1	16
41-50		1		1
51-60	1	1		2
61+	4	8	1	13
No Answer	1	2	1	4
61+	1	2		3
No Answer			1	1
Grand Total	60	100	5	165

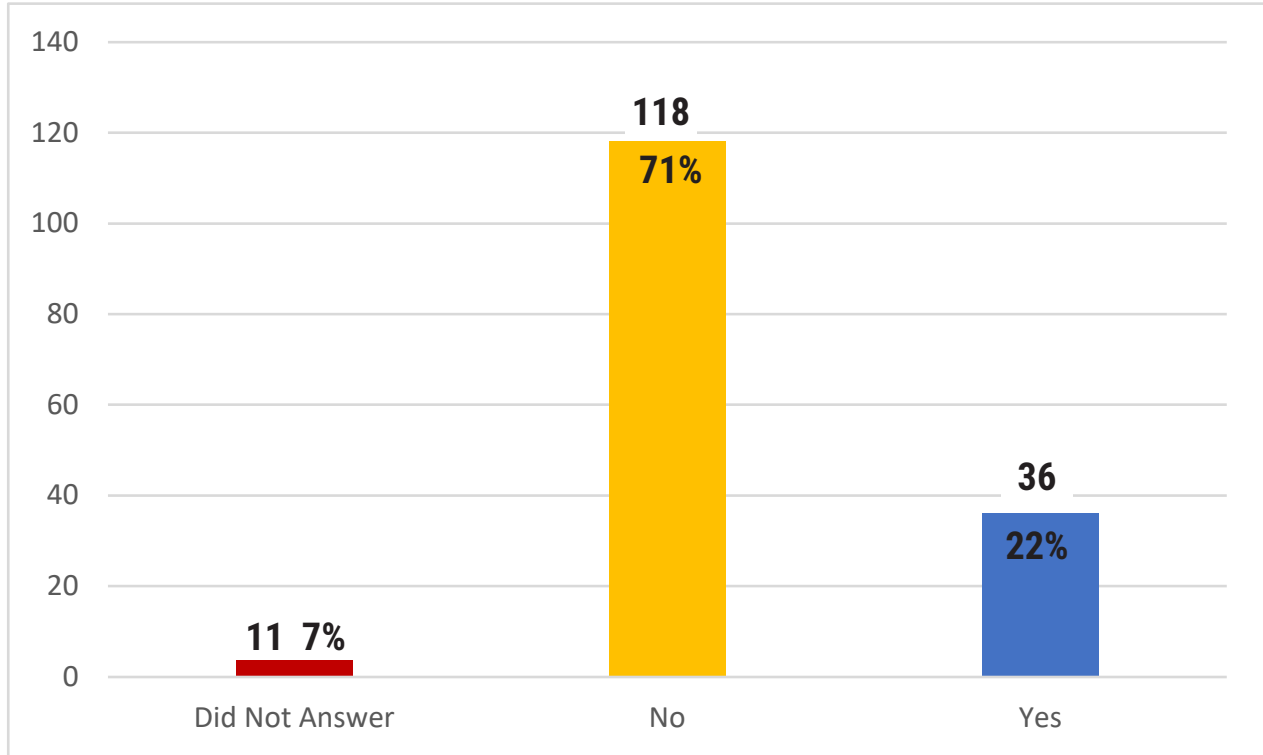
Do you believe that Trinity should **continue to maintain food restrictions** until the Henrico County level of COVID-19 transmission moves to “moderate” or “low” levels as defined by the CDC?



Food Restrictions?

Row Labels	Yes	No	No Answer	Grand Total
9:00 AM	27	27	2	56
31-40	6	5		11
41-50	3	5	1	9
51-60	4	2	1	7
61+	14	14		28
under 20		1		1
11:00 In Person	20	23	1	44
31-40		2		2
41-50	2	4		6
51-60	2	7		9
61+	16	10	1	27
11:00 Livestream	38	7		45
20-30	1			1
31-40	1	1		2
41-50	2	1		3
51-60	7	2		9
61+	27	3		30
None (do not attend worship)	7	9		16
41-50		1		1
51-60	1	1		2
61+	6	7		13
No Answer	1	2	1	4
61+	1	2		3
No Answer			1	1
Grand Total	93	68	4	165

If the food restrictions are removed at Trinity, will you **be LESS likely to worship in person** and participate in church activities indoors?



Less Likely?

Row Labels	Yes	No	No Answer	Grand Total
9:00 AM	10	43	3	56
31-40	3	8		11
41-50	1	7	1	9
51-60	1	5	1	7
61+	5	22	1	28
under 20		1		1
11:00 In Person	2	40	2	44
31-40		2		2
41-50		6		6
51-60		9		9
61+	2	23	2	27
11:00 Livestream	19	23	3	45
20-30		1		1
31-40		2		2
41-50	2	1		3
51-60	4	5		9
61+	13	14	3	30
None	4	10	2	16
41-50		1		1
51-60		1	1	2
61+	4	8	1	13
No Answer	1	2	1	4
61+	1	2		3
No Answer			1	1
Grand Total	36	118	11	165

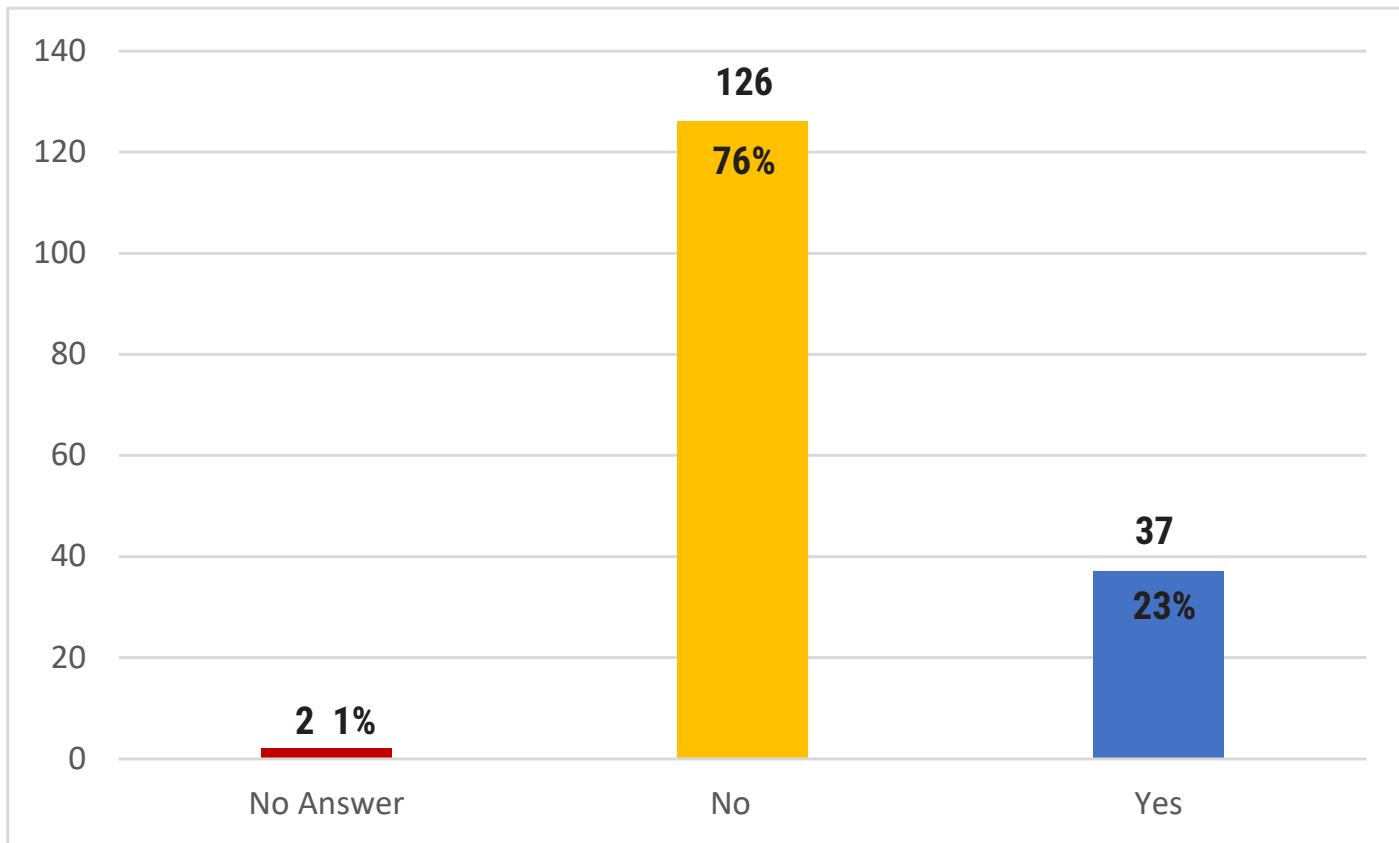
Are you vaccinated?

Yes 162
No 2
No Answer 1

Have you received a booster?

Yes 123
No 34
No Answer 8

Do you have children under the age of 18 who attend Trinity?



Are your children old enough to be vaccinated?

Yes 30
No 6
No Answer 1

If your children are old enough to be vaccinated, are they vaccinated?

Yes 24
No 6
No Answer 7

How has your **faith informed your decisions** during the COVID-19 pandemic and how should our faith guide our decisions moving forward?

- All plagues come to an end. God is in control. My decisions have been based more on my years of knowledge and experience in the health care field. Give members the opportunity to use the free will they were granted by God to make their own decisions about protecting their health. Come to church, or don't come. Wear a mask or don't wear a mask. Trying to tell everyone what they must do in order to attend church in person is counterproductive at this point in a pandemic.
- Caring for others is paramount in our faith and we need to be considerate of others in all aspects of their life whether it be physical or mental.
- Do no harm, but also trust science and vaccines.
- Do no harm. The inconvenience of masks is real, but caring for the vulnerable and those at risk and taking responsibility to stop the spread is critical to living our faith.
- Doing what our doctors say but trusting God as the ultimate decision maker and trying to worry less about making all risk 0 at all times
- Empathy and understanding for our fellow man has driven many of my decisions. I wish to do no harm to my neighbor and I hope they wish to do no harm to me.
- Faith is a balance between the desire to do no harm and to trust in our Savior for protection. There is a benefit to being together, in person, to share God's love. As such, I believe we should strive to return to as much human interaction as possible, without being reckless. So far, the balance struck has seemed appropriate. Hopefully following any sort of holiday surge we can continue to safely reduce mask requirements and food restrictions.
- Faith is our North Star. It gets us through all life's adversities. I've had to start Yoga to strength my ability to meditate (prayer with Christ for me) I will return when Trinity lifts all restrictions
- Go hi
- God gives us the ability to make informed decisions as to how we live our lives. I chose to follow the guidelines set forth by our public health officials based on their access to information and their expertise in that field. My decisions have absolutely nothing to do with politics.
- God has given man the ability to think, create, and question. Man has taken those and all of God's gifts and used them to improve man's existence on earth. My faith in God allows me to trust the scientific community and all the wonderful medical advances, most recently the COVID vaccine. My faith invites me to make responsible decisions based on the latest information from the scientific community.
- I always believe that God's will will be done. Having said that, it doesn't hurt to be prudent given what we know scientifically about COVID. I look at each circumstance individually and make a decision based on what applies.
- I am just trusting in God that all the medical people (not meaning our church health people) making all these recommendations are people of faith with God's guidance. I am vaccinated but not all members of my family are vaccinated.
- I believe as Christians we must love our neighbors and do our part to keep everyone safe. If that means a bit longer for masking and food restrictions, then that's what we should do.
- I believe that it is my duty and privilege to try to love one another, and I view getting vaccinated and wearing a mask during relevant activities as part of my expression of that love for others. It is the duty of care that I want to offer to others, and that I hope others will offer to me. I appreciate that Trinity has expressed similar sentiments on the subject of Covid restrictions. At the same time, Trinity folks have varying levels of risk/ vulnerability and of risk tolerance. Accordingly, I would support policies that inform everyone of the protective measures that will be taken in advance of each event, but also allow the folks involved in those activities certain freedoms in choosing what those measures will be for their event. For example, if masks and vaccinations are not going to be expected at a Sunday afternoon Bible study, I (as a senior citizen) can choose not to attend, or at least to come but leave my own mask on, as long as I understand the situation in advance. If it is the stated preference that, as an accommodation to older and otherwise more vulnerable attendees, masks will be required at the 11:00 service and that it is suggested (but only suggested) that unvaccinated folks might wish to attend the 9:30 service, then our more cautious or vulnerable folks (like myself) might feel that their needs are being honored. Likewise, perhaps it is possible to have a more lax set of practices at the 9:30 service, as long as everyone is made aware of the laxer restrictions in advance of that service. My hope is that a more flexible approach to restrictions can both honor the need for protection of the older and more vulnerable folks, and also

honor the preferences of younger, healthier folks who want and need fewer restrictions, with the caveat that the degree of restrictive Covid measures will be decided and communicated in advance of each service and event. I feel as if it is fair to ask each person to assume the risk in attending a particular event or service, when they know what that risk involves regarding masks, vaccination expectations, social distancing, etc. Although I am not qualified to do more than throw out these suggestions as examples, I would appreciate the HCT's considering what degree of flexibility might be possible for various Trinity events and services.

- I believe that worship guidelines should probably be more restrictive than small group guidelines. I think small groups can make some of their own decisions regarding what works for the group.
- I believe we need to continue to be mindful of the most vulnerable in our congregation, and that is a reflection of my faith.
- I believe we need to follow the science and continue to pray. I believe we need to support our church leadership in these trying times as the leadership is making the best decisions for all by reviewing the science and praying over it.
- I believe we should all work together to get through this difficult time. We are stronger together! I'm not sure why so many are opposed to the masks - it is not hurtful to anyone and could be very helpful to those who are in a precarious health position.
I continue to ask God to guide all of us and bring us together for the purpose of doing good in his world.
- I do believe we need to be thinking of our neighbor as we have been taught by Jesus. In that capacity we must be aware of the risk of Covid to our neighbors in the pew next to us as well as our community. We have members and staff who are immunocompromised as well as young children who still cannot receive vaccines. I think it is critical that we think about them as well as our overwhelmed hospital staffs as we decide if we can endure one or two hours in a mask to enhance their safety.
- I do not believe that The Bible in any way supports a religious exemption whereby people do not receive a vaccination. There are many reasons why one may not get a vaccine, but belief in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior is not one of them. What would Jesus do?
- I feel science should guide decision-making moving forward. The church should heed the advice of healthcare professionals, the CDC, and the VDH.
- I feel that we should respect the wishes and comfort of others by accepting their need to wear masks, and those who have had all their vaccinations should feel respected and comfortable by not being required to wear masks.
- I have been more prayerful in my decisions and ask God's guidance for my physician in his recommendations for me.
- I have been watching the data and listening to scientists. My faith has only come into play when I pray for an end to the pandemic or for God's help in getting through the pandemic.
- I have faith in believing God is in charge. --- though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me Psalm 23.
As a Christian community of faith, we should not be so afraid.
- I have faith in the wisdom God has given the scientists and doctors during this pandemic and thus I trust the science that says that I am protected as a vaccinated individual. I think we should show our faith in God and our faith in the vaccine by showing that we trust it is effective. Keeping the strictest level of guidelines shows a lack of faith in the vaccine. Very soon, all age groups, except under 5, will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. By maintaining the strictest level of protocols in place, stricter than stores, restaurants, and public schools, we are telling our community to not trust the vaccine. And if we don't trust it's protection, then why are we even getting it?
- I have gotten into bad habits but want to get back to church!
- I just couldn't do virtual choir any more. I am much happier since I found a choir where everyone is vaccinated and we sing masked and in person.
- I personally see my faith and covid decisions as two unrelated matters.
- I support the prudent actions taken by the HCT for the health safety of all our members. During these difficult times Trinity members should be even more considerate of others health situations. Even though choir participation has been reduced by the use of masks, I am not going to let the use of a mask ruin my worship experience. We must also prayerfully seek God's will and become more united to support Trinity through this unique situation.
- I trust my body and God to keep me healthy. We make healthy choices everyday. We feel that there is not enough research supporting the need for the vaccine in children vs the risk.
- I try to think of others & how my actions could impact them. Trinity has a large older population & with the break

through cases I wear my mask when I attend church in person. I started attending Sunday School in person but have returned to doing so via Zoom as I am not comfortable being in a moderate size room with mask less people & not the best ventilation.

- I went to the 8:15 service. Sorry that's been eliminated without discussion or explanation.
- John 15:12. How can we care for each other, especially the most vulnerable among us? How can we maintain connections without actual presence? Can we be flexible and agile in adapting to a changed world?
- Love your neighbor
Mask requirement helps to make everyone safe
- More than ever I have come to realize no matter where I am I can worship and be an instrument of God's peace and spread His light and all the Hope therein to others in communication with me, and help others in many different ways. And prayer is key to surviving the changes and challenges coupled with adhering to ALL safety protocols.
- My faith drives 99% of my decisions in my life pre and during COVID-19 pandemic. (OK, maybe not when it comes to exercise and my weight; that's the 1%.) I don't want to negatively impact the physical health of others. AND, I don't want to negatively impact 1) the physical and mental health of the medical community who is tasked with caring for the COVID-19 infected people and 2) the physical health of the non-medical community who may have life threatening illnesses (stroke, heart attack, car accident, etc.) and are in dire need of a hospital bed and medical care. Going forward, we should consider others at all times. We are people of faith. On the whole, we are a well educated people who should believe in science. And as people of faith, we should remember that Jesus instructed us to be servants, not have the air of the privileged, who believe that we have the right to do whatever we want whenever we want. We should put the needs of others first . . . always!
- My faith guides my decision to not live in fear and to trust God. I feel like these restrictions must be loosened for Trinity to move forward as a church. It seems like the church is too focused on trying to micromanage the congregation and is not focused on reaching our community for Christ and helping those who are at Trinity to grow in their faith.
- My faith has been challenged, not because of my love for Christ, but because Trinity's leadership has been a disappointment.
- My faith has guided me to manage risk to my family, other people, and myself. We informally maintain a risk budget and try to pursue mitigation strategies or testing when we think that we are at risk. It has been difficult to calculate individual risk.
- My faith has influenced my behaviors in that I wear a mask out of respect for those who work in an establishment where there are a lot of people. I wear a mask out of respect for those who can't be vaccinated yet. I do things for the least... it is not a big deal
To wear a mask for an hour.
- My faith has not made me think one way or the other when making decisions about my response to Covid . I do pray that things will improve and we will get back to a life without the pandemic hanging over us.
- My faith has remained steady in the good Lord. However, my faith is depleted in our congregation members who fuel division in decision making that are really based on unwise social media findings and political leaders with no clue. Truth and trust are constantly violated by individuals who only care about themselves, not the good of the cause.
- My faith helps me in all decisions. Our faith should always guide us. We should continue to use CDC guidelines and think of others in our decisions.
- My faith is very important to me, however I feel like my ability to worship at Trinity has been impacted over the last year. Prior to the vaccine, I understood why worship was being held the way it was. Now that vaccines are widely available, life is returning back to a sense normalcy. The only part of my life that has not returned back to normal is worship and UMC. My kids are in school, I am back to work, I can go to a movie, and attend Virginia Tech Football games. However, the 9 am modern worship at Trinity is still not back to the way that had come love it and attract us to Trinity. Be open minded and offer the 9 am contemporary service indoors. Mask requirements if you are not vaccinated is completely acceptable. Seat every other church pew if you have to. We can do this!
- My faith says...Fear not for I am with you.
- My religious faith has not significantly informed my health related decisions during the pandemic. While respectful of others' personal decisions and comfort level, I have faith in the effectiveness of COVID vaccinations. Since being fully vaccinated my family has generally returned to those pre-pandemic activities that do not impose restrictions.

- None noted at this time.
- Not at all.
- Our direction to love one another includes keeping each other safe and healthy, especially when the burden is as low as wearing a mask.
- Our faith as a church family should be guided by our obligation to protect everyone who enters our doors, even if they don't want to protect themselves. I am so appreciative of our HCT and the difficult decisions they have made as they have guided our church safely through this pandemic. The team is a top notch group of leaders including a doctor who is especially dear to me. I trust the science and the guidelines created to support it. The church is not immune to the divisiveness permeating our society, and some are using a piece of fabric as a weapon against the church. I think we will all be happy when masks are not needed, but until then I trust the HCT team to provide guidelines based on CDC guidelines that make sense and follow the scientific data. When levels are higher than average in the area, it is important to reflect that data in the guidelines. As the administration changes in January, we will be living with a state leader who may not be as amenable to the scientific data, so the HCT may need to adjust to CDC guidelines.
- Our faith is always strong. Our common sense is a little shaky.
- Our faith should be the first guide to what is best for our church and its members.
- Our health and the health of our community should be a priority. I'd rather be safe than sorry. Our bodies are our temples. We can't get another body. Care and safety should be first especially with Omicron variant now. This is not time to fly off in the wind and relax our precautions. I would not like buffet serving of food.
- Prayers to God
- Protect the vulnerable.
- Right now my faith has more issues than Covid-19 caused.
- Science has formed my decisions. I believe God wants us to act in a way that will not harm others.
- Science has informed my decision and will do so moving forward.
- Sometimes we do things for the most vulnerable! That means wearing masks and not being a part of the spread.
- That which you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do also to me.
- The command to love my neighbor drives me to be very cautious so as not to spread this virus. That's why I don't have a problem with the mask requirement or social distancing. I know it's much less likely that I will be catching the disease given my vaccination status but I want to be careful not to engage in behavior that may lead to harm for another. I have sent cards and called members I know who may be feeling isolated. The livestream service and ability to have Bible studies via Zoom allow me to continue to worship God as a Trinity member and to be involved with and support other members. I am very grateful for the opportunities I have to be active at Trinity even though I am not in the building. As Paul wrote, we should give thanks in all circumstances.
- This is a time to try harder than ever not to be selfish. All actions taken to lower the transmission of Covid-19 will help protect ourselves and others. I think Jesus would preach and advocate that.
- Trusting God will keep us safe while still following science guidelines
- Trying to be smart and listen to the advice of the experts. Also knowing God is always there.
- We believe that the personal contact in a church has a very powerful effect. You feel the presence of God.
- We cannot control much during this pandemic, but we can live responsibly concerning the most vulnerable in our Trinity family. I think loving our brother right now means protecting each other against this virus as well as ourselves. But we can't let the virus stop the work of our church of nurturing each other and our community. We have found and will find very creative ways to do this. The investments made in our technology have been very productive, but our determination to continue to meet, serve, and worship has been the moving force.
- We have faith that our God and his nature will relieve us of this terrible pandemic, and look forward to being with our church friends
- We should listen to our hearts and follow protocols as directed as best we can.
- We should willingly do what is best for the well being of our Trinity community, and I will support Trinity in what decisions they make concerning HC>
- When do we have FAITH in the vaccinations? I taught for 35 years and subbed for 9 years after that. I had children puke on me, my desk, etc. yet I NEVER got the flu - I was vaccinated and did LOTS of hand washing and

NEVER wore a mask. I also taught high risk children. The flu is still among us and we can still get vaccinated. I believe COVID will be among us for quite awhile - our protection - vaccination and hand washing for sure, but to continue to require masks instead of making it optional has forced me to worship elsewhere where mask are not required. I have FAITH in the vaccinations!!

- While we have remained faithful to Trinity, the extreme covid restrictions have contributed to the loss of many families attending.
- With a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences, science has guided my decisions, for the most part, during the pandemic. I have prayed about being less judgmental (God's job- not mine) about people who have believed the conspiracy theories (bought ivermectin online) and have refused to be vaxxed. Regarding how faith should guide our decisions moving forward, I think Solomon had the right idea. I will pray for wisdom for the HCT team as you consider data from all perspectives.
- Yes. Getting the vaccine and wearing a mask while there is significant community spread is showing our community God's love. We are protecting ourselves and our neighbors from a virus that could seriously hurt them or their family members. My faith tells me that God gave the scientists & medical professionals these tools and talents that will protect the world, and that is something to be celebrated & championed by everyone within a faith community. My faith tells me to be patient with people who refuse the vaccine & make decisions that weaken/slow our progress, and I readily admit that is a constant struggle. I believe because we are so close to the end of this pandemic, this winter may be the hardest to endure as the unvaccinated's stubbornness & ignorance continue to hurt us all, and I'm not sure how to respond to that reality. The exhaustion is real, ya'!!! And, so is the frustration!

Is there **any other comment** you want the HCT to know about Trinity's protocols?

- 8:00 service yes or no seems to be a point of concern. Please make a decision soon. Thanks!!
- After 30+ years of attending Trinity and actively participating in many aspects , including choir. I have not attended in almost 2 years and feel that I no longer have a church home @ Trinity due to the changes in services offered.....not the rules w/regard to Covid. The decision by liberal leaning leadership to eliminate the 8:15 traditional service , thus eliminating the choir opportunity have left me unchurched.
- Because of the mandate over each, I feel completely disconnected from Trinity. My favorite day of the week was Sunday, totally centered around church, now Sunday is just another day.
- Detailed communication goes a long, long way in getting people to understand decisions and to buy into the decisions. Thank you for explaining what the CDC recommendations are the present time, where Virginia stands at the present time and that these are the driving items in your decisions for our congregation. So, remember . . . Communications, Communications, Communications! (One of the driving forces of success, be it in business or in personal relationships.) Additionally, a question concerning the Listening Sessions on November 7th: No Listening Sessions via ZOOM were provided for the church members who are not comfortable with in person gatherings or with members who were unable to attend in person that particular day. The message you sent with this action is that you don't really care what such persons (such as myself) have to say about your actions and decisions. WRONG MESSAGE!
- First, thank you all for your work - it is very valuable and appreciated. I also appreciate all that Trinity has done to make the livestream experience as clear and inclusive as it is. Unfortunately, the HCT has a very difficult job. You're walking a tightrope to avoid the old vaudeville joke: the operation was a success but the patient died. We may avoid a COVID-19 outbreak at Trinity but we may lose people who are tired of the restrictions (can't help you here since I don't understand that attitude). We're loosening guidelines as Henrico County moves from 'Significant' to 'High' levels of infection - and that's before the holiday gatherings. Having said all of that, I think the new guidelines are needed for some of our members. I belong to a small adult group (very small, all vaccinated and boosters) that will probably decide to go without masks and I will admit that will improve our meetings (some are hard of hearing and the masks add to the frustration of trying to learn together). I will continue to attend these meetings and pray that none of us gets sick. I will also continue to pray for all of you and our church, for wisdom, patience, and guidance in these challenging times. God bless you!
- Good job!
- HOPE SOON WE HAVE THE 8:15 AM
- I am an active attendee of the 11:00 worship service, but I am aware of dissatisfaction among some church

members who believe the pandemic has provided a convenient reason to permanently cancel the 8:15 Sunday service. I have not seen any official announcement to that affect. I am concerned that this dissatisfaction could lead to more loss of members and reduction in giving. It might help to soothe some bruised feelings among the membership if the church leadership could please clarify the reasons for returning to only two live worship services.

- I appreciate all the dedication and hard work of the committee members on what is clearly a very challenging set of decisions. Thank you, especially, for your recent decisions to allow adult small groups a measure of flexibility in choosing the restrictions they wish to utilize at their meetings and events.
- I believe in allowing members at Trinity to make a personal decision regarding their own health risk. There can be no one size fits all policy regarding masks, food etc. Fear on the part of a few are dictating the policy for many who don't want the current strict restrictions. Covid, or some form of the virus, will be with us for a very long time, but we shouldn't live in fear.

It is time for the Modern service to return to the sanctuary and for children to return to Sunday School.

Trinity has lost members, and many whom remain are disappointed with the decisions the church leaders are making.

As a long-time member of the Contemporary Service, I have switched to the 11:00 service due to the policy of gathering outside, then, in Trinity Hall.

- I do hope we can continue our Circle meetings in small groups with masks and social distancing.
- I do not feel strongly about the food question one way or another; however, I would be unlikely to eat food at Trinity if it were prepared by others at this time. I would bring my own food to the church. I feel safer in Trinity's building than in any other public building at the present time and appreciate the work of this committee to help us live in love with each other.
- I feel the church and HCT team continue to do a very good job. I feel we are setting the example of caring for all regardless of what some may think. Our role as Christians is to love and care for all as well as protect. I realize Trinity's decisions on how to continue to navigate COVID is unpopular with some but we need to put self aside and come together for the greater good. Thank you all for your leadership.
- I get why you all limited responses to yes and no on the top of this survey. However, I could not answer the first four questions in that way. Firstly, this pandemic continues to be dynamic, so my decision (and answer) could change with new information. Finally, IDK what you mean by food restrictions. Thank you for your efforts.
- I go to events all the time without a mask and so do our children. There are many churches around us that are back to normal safely and we feel trinity should move in that direction as well. We love the people and friends we have made at trinity but would love to see it moving forward a little faster.
- I have appreciated the outdoor service since my daughter is too young to be vaccinated. We are not willing to move indoors, masked or not, until she receives a vaccine. Once she is vaccinated I feel fine moving indoors masked. If we were indoors, and people choose to be unmasked, can we ask for proof of vaccine? Show vaccine card before removing mask
- I know you get a lot of pressure, but I think opening things up as optional to groups under 30 is a mistake. It doesn't fit the guidelines and can make vulnerable and cautious people feel like they are in a really tough situation. I can only imagine that it works for people who are comfortable because they know everyone else so well, but now it's difficult for new people to come. After all, guidelines right now really shouldn't be about what is comfortable for everyone, it should be about what protects and stops spread. We are all sick of masks, we all want to drink our coffee, but we aren't there yet. It's hard. Soon, but not yet. Thanks for what you do, it's not easy.
- I strongly believe we should follow CDC guidelines and covid rates in Henrico before relaxing our mask mandate.
- I think allowing people to make some of their own decisions regarding mask vs non-mask is appropriate. Those who are at risk can continue to wear a mask if they feel comfortable doing so. Go back to making the balcony a Mask only area for worship.
- I think it is prudent to continue to follow the scientific guidance of the experts.
- I think that those who have been frightened the most by the virus, are being the most vocal. I feel that the larger group of our church community is not fearful. Thus the number of participants is decreasing because they are going to other churches that are not as strict. I don't honestly know of any other church, Methodist or otherwise, this strict in our area. By maintaining mandates for all regardless of vaccination status, you will keep members away or loose them completely. Children are, and have been, the least affected by the virus, thus keeping extreme restrictions in place for them isn't logical. We have virtual options for those who have anxiety about the virus, or who have high risk medical conditions. If this was a regular winter flu season, someone concerned for their or their child's health due to a specific medical condition, would stay home until they felt they or their

children was safe. We wouldn't make restrictions for the entire church community.

- I think the HCT has made good decisions and set good examples to protect the congregation during the pandemic. With the uncertainty of the new mutations that are of concern now, I do not think this is the time to ease up on mask wearing in small groups, serving food, etc. Maybe this should be held off until possibly early spring.
I have observed many students getting off school buses wearing masks. It is interesting to note that they walk on home without removing their masks because they are adaptable and have become used to wearing a mask. If our children can adapt to wearing a mask surely we as adults can make the sacrifice. Come on people!
- I understand why the 9:00 service has moved to Trinity Hall but hope that will not become permanent. I will attend on line until the 9:00 service returns to the sanctuary.
- I was leaning toward lifting restrictions until the brand new Omicron variant reared its ugly head. Now I think we don't know enough and should probably put changes on hold for a couple of weeks.
- I will return to Trinity in person once the 9am service has returned to the sanctuary. Do not want to sit in Trinity Hall for church service so in the meantime I'll continue live streaming the 11am service from home.
- I would love to see the 8:15 service return. Right now, my family and I are in a quandary. We stayed outside until that 9am service moved inside. We are traditional service folks, so if we have to be inside and masked, then we prefer the traditional service. However, we are such 8:15 folks that coming at 11 is not working well for us.
- I'm concerned about the future of our church if we don't open our doors more widely. I worry that we've lost some of our members. That negatively impacts our sense of community, our financial situation, and our growth.
- If we continue to be so conservative I'm afraid we loose members and we will struggle to financially continue the programs we currently provide.
- If you opt to go maskless in services, I will continue to wear a mask. I do believe that we should not be shaking hands as a symbol of peace for the foreseeable future. Food in small group settings or outside is ok, but not inside.
- It is absolutely unnecessary for the pastors to wear a mask during the worship service. They are very much removed from the congregation when they are in the pulpit and well beyond the distance droplets travel when speaking. I live at Cedarfield which has mask protocols, but pastors/speakers remove the mask when speaking to a gathering. Trinity has gone a bit overboard in its precautions. Perhaps you're afraid of offending members or being sued. I will not return to in person worship until the mask requirement is removed and church returns to normal.
- It is way past time to loosen the restrictions. Many of the decisions seem reactionary and grounded in fear and not facts.
I appreciate all that this team has done to guide Trinity; please consider making masks optional in the very near future. I know you have received much criticism about waiting so long in returning to in-person worship; don't make the same mistake again in waiting so long to remove the mask mandate.
- It would be good to continue to give people the option to wear a mask and to sit socially distanced in the sanctuary.
- Just want to say thank you to everyone on the team - tough decisions all the way around with no clear guidance. I'm a big believer that we need clear exit ramps off of the mask and food policy to be articulated as we can't stay in them forever. I like the current guidance of tying changes in the policy to what is happening in the real-world whether that be community transmission or % of congregation vaccinated. As all of us learn to live with Covid and not fear getting it as much as we did last year with better medicine and vaccination status, we need to pivot to what life looks like with Covid circulating all the time. Again thanks to your entire team - I appreciate what you are doing and am just glad to be back indoors and gathering again
- Keep working toward a safe environment.
- My family and I joined Trinity in 2015. Since that time we had come to love the church, especially the community outreach and the people. I am fearful that the HCT's strict interpretations of the CDC guidelines will lead to a significant drop in Trinity UMC membership. The CDC guidelines recommend that those fully vaccinated wear masks indoors. However the HTC emails states that the guidelines require all individuals regardless of vaccination status to wear a mask indoors. This is a major difference. We need to be careful with the words that we use. We need to grow our church and do our best to get back to normal while keeping people safe. Thank you to the HCT for your service! I know your job is not easy and we greatly appreciate your service. Thank you
- My family has attended several other Methodist churches in the Richmond area and within the state throughout the pandemic. Trinity's protocol has been the strictest for the longest period of time over all other churches we have visited. While there are certainly protocols and guidance in place at other churches, it really seems to

come down to the preference of the individual whether to be masked or not. I have not understood why Trinity remained so stringent about the protocol, especially when so many at church are certainly out in public, going to work, the grocery store, restaurants, sports events, school, etc, and many of those places simply state that if you are not vaccinated, masks should be worn as a precaution. So much of the world has learned to operate in a fairly normal capacity with moderate precautions that allow choice. I don't understand why Trinity has not been able to understand the manner in which people are living outside of church right now.

- My family will be MORE likely to worship in person and attend church activities indoors if/when mask requirements are removed.
- My prayers go to the Trinity staff. Navigating this mess cannot be easy.
- None
- our church membership is declining rapidly - something needs to be done to get people back or we will not have a congregation to worry about surveying. Covid protocols are not the only issues on the table right now.
- Our slow actions to opening the church are negatively impacting the future of the church.
- Please bring back the early 8:15am service
- Small groups, where all are vaccinated, should be able to decide to meet without masks
- Some years ago when I was teaching in the children's program at Trinity I contracted the flu x3 which caused me to develop Myocarditis. I almost lost my life. But the medical staff said I was truly a miracle b/c just as I was going to be placed on cardiac transplant list my body started responding favorably to IV antibiotics in ICU and I recovered. Thanks be to God. And thanks to all of you who continue to provide protection for all Trinity members through setting safety protocols.
- Thank you for all you are doing!
- Thank you for all your hard work.
- Thank you for helping us all to stay safe. We appreciate everything that your group has done. This is truly the Lord's work that you are doing.
- Thank you for making us feel safe!
- Thank you for recognizing that there is little risk in service leaders removing their masks. They're not close to anyone when they are preaching, singing solos, or reading scriptures. Everyone else is masked. Win-Win. Thank you for allowing the choir to vax, test, and sing without masks for Lessons and Carols. Thanks for taking on this difficult task, HCT.
- Thank you!
- Thank you, HCT. You have done great work under trying circumstances.
- Thank you, thank you for all your tie and thoughtful consideration on this matter.
- Thanks to all of you on the HCT committee!
- The cdc doesn't require the use of masks if you have been vaccinated. You can go shopping for food without a mask. But it doesn't matter. Trinity will continue this course until there are not enough members left to support the ministry. Then it won't matter if the church opens up, nobody will care because the lights will be off.
- The change in policy that allows adult Sunday school classes to make responsible decisions regarding masks and refreshments is appropriate.
- The decision to require masks is UnChristian and a poor example. It has caused me to seek a less fearful church where I can worship freely without having to be masked. Masking should be an individual decision not a requirement. It makes my heart sad to see the direction of fearfulness our church has taken. Please pray on the decisions you are making and see the negative impact you are having on the body of believers
- The loudest people are going to complain, those of us who are being cautious are less likely to speak up, we will just opt out like we've had to for everything else. It's just hard when the thing you are opting out of is not just a restaurant but its church.
- The outdoor service was a good idea, while the weather permitted.
I'm sorry the 8:15am service was cut.
- There is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction and hurtful anger in our church that I find quite disturbing. I am not sure of all the complaints and issues, but two I continue to hear are {1}.Masks and {2} Removal of the 8:15 Church Service. All churches in organized religion have issues that cause consternation and anger, but this seems to be particularly harsh. I attend the 11:00 service, but I know there are a lot of people who treasured the early traditional service. It is hard for me to believe that members of the church would leave or withhold financial support based on either one of these issues, but humans don't always properly rationalize their sometimes selfish preferences. I believe Pastor Larry and the HCT have provided good communication recently regarding Covid restrictions at church (such as this email and survey). Perhaps it would also be helpful

for communication regarding the early traditional service. - whatever the position is by church leaders. Is it temporarily eliminated due to COVID? Is the intention to permanently have only 1 Traditional Service? Will it depend on how many people attend the 11:00 service as to whether the early service will be reinstated?

I know this is not totally under HCT, but felt this was a good platform to bring up this very important issue.

Hopefully Church Leadership has a plan to help address concerns people have with regard to the 8:15 Traditional Service and communicate the plan (whatever it is).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as part of this survey.

- There's no need to answer my question directly to me but I believe it would be worth addressing how you picked 30 as the magic number of people to gather without masking up.
It seems to me that 30 people in the Masten Room, for example, would be much more of a concern than 30 people in Trinity Hall or the sanctuary.
A little puzzling to me.
- They are doing a good job with a difficult situation. Bless them...
- This is a no win situation for leaders. I say stick with the data in the science at local, state, and federal levels, and somehow, our church must find a way to diplomatically lead the congregation through this. We can't continue to be disconnected as a congregation, this is more than worship service offerings, this is about doing the hard work of staying in touch with our congregation beyond worship and programming. Doing that builds relationships, and in tough times, you need relationships.
- Too restrictive especially for those who are vaccinated
- We greatly appreciate all of your hard work! We know how much grief you get and hope you know how valued you are!
- We have been frequent attendees at Hope Church on Patterson Ave...since springtime. I have considered filming with my phone the 500-600 people showing up for their 9:30 worship....perhaps 2-5% with masks, everyone together singing and worshipping.

The deal killer at Trinity for my family was the news that a rapid test...and much worse to me, proof of vaccination was required to sing or read scripture as part of the service. I know the protocols are much looser for other Methodists churches in our area. Most likely we will be leaving in early 2022.

- We need to open our church back up to be a welcoming community. We need to have robust community service. We do not need to penalize those that have covid vaccines and antibodies.
- Wearing a mask is such a simple thing to do. It is showing our brothers and sisters what it means to be a Christian. We wear them, not for our own safety, but for the safety of others because Jesus asks us to care for others.
- With the ongoing uptick in cases here, as well as the unknown effects of Omicron, it doesn't seem like the time to be changing any guidelines.
- Wondering why the 9:00 am service can not go back into the sanctuary.
- You all have been strong people of faith as you have navigated these difficult decisions. You continually look out for all who are in your charge as you make thoughtful and in my opinion accurate guidelines. Thank You for your hard work and concern for Trinity and our community.
- You all need to realize there are MANY families leaving Trinity for many reasons (i.e. no early service, Sunday morning schedule crammed packed, sandwich together, whatever you want to call it - has not allowed choir members to partake in the FULL Sunday school hour as well as those that volunteer to help with the children, not being able to get to the 11:00 service on time due to Sunday school not ending until 11:00). The protocols have pushed them over the edge!