

*Updated November 2020*

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**VALLEY**

# **GATHERING**

*GUIDELINES*

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*[valleycommunity.cc](http://valleycommunity.cc)*

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# GETTING "FIT"

## Getting “FIT” for Gathering

*We’re excited to once again meet together in person! This is your Gathering Guide; it will be updated as our standards and guidelines change. You will always find the latest version on the website.*

*Valley is embracing three approaches that will make us all “FIT” for Gathering:*

*We must be **Flexible**. We’re all dealing with a lot of change this year: at home, at work, at church. Let’s be flexible!*

*We must be **Innovative**. Some of the things we’ll be trying, we simply haven’t done before.*

*We must be **Thoughtful**. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we’re going to assume the best from each other; we’re going to have to be forgiving and kind and thoughtful.*

# WORSHIP DETAILS

WHEN, WHERE, AND  
HOW WE GATHER

**Valley Avon worships each week in our building at 590 W. Avon Road in Avon. Valley Simsbury worships each Sunday at The Master's School at 36 Westledge Road in West Simsbury. Both services are streamed online Sundays.**

- » **Valley Avon services:** 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (in person). 10:30 a.m. Sunday (online)
- » **Valley Simsbury service:** 10 a.m. Sunday (in person and livestream)

All in-person services require your party to reserve its spot each week before coming to the service. Reserve your spot at [valleycommunity.cc](http://valleycommunity.cc).

During indoor worship gatherings, ushers and staff will direct you to your seating area, be available for questions, and dismiss the congregation in an orderly fashion afterward to ensure good physical distancing.

# SAFE BUILDINGS

## CLEANING OUR SPACES

### Facility Sanitizing

- » While we always seek to maintain high standards of cleanliness, extra measures have been taken to clean. The entire building is being carefully cleaned throughout the week.
- » The facility has been deep-cleaned the facility by sanitizing the carpets, chairs, surfaces, and all points of contact.
- » Our goal is to make all indoor gatherings as “contact-free” as possible; doors will be propped open; hand sanitizer will be available; water fountains will be closed.
- » All door handles and surfaces in bathrooms and common areas will be cleaned before, between, and after all gathering times.

# INDOOR GATHERINGS

## TOP GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- » Each service or gathering will have an attendance limit, based on room capacity.
- » **Each party must reserve its space ahead of time.** Reservations are first-come first-served and will be available Tuesday afternoons online at [valleycommunity.cc](http://valleycommunity.cc).
- » Masks are required at all times in our buildings, except for people on the stage. **Avon Kids:** masks required for children ages 6 and over. **Simsbury Kids:** masks required for children ages 3 and over at The Master's School.
- » We strive for **“limited-contact” worship services.** Our goal is to limit contact as much as possible. We encourage all attendees to utilize online resources for all worship activities. No handshakes, hugs, or high fives please.
- » Valley will not be providing any food or drink indoors. In the **Sanctuary**, you may bring in a water bottle, but please don't bring any food. Elsewhere in the building, you may bring a small snack and a beverage. When not eating or drinking, remember to put your mask back on, completely covering your nose and mouth. At **The Master's School**, any beverage container with a lid or top is allowed.

# OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

## TOP GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- » Physical distancing requirement is for parties/households to keep six feet of distance from each other at all times. For picnic-style set-ups, this may require prepared spaces to be MORE than six feet apart.
- » If the six-foot rule cannot be maintained for any reason, then masks will be required. As always, the respiratory/health exemption applies, in which case we will ask the person who can't wear a mask to keep proper physical distancing.
- » Staff and volunteers who are facilitating attendees to and from a spot, or who will be expected to answer multiple questions from multiple parties, need to wear a mask during those times.
- » Valley outdoor gatherings at private homes: Please follows these guidelines as much as possible. To the best of your ability, please ensure that nobody in the gathering is feeling ill or experiencing any common COVID-19 symptoms. Before meeting, make sure nobody in the group has recently tested positive or had recent exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.



# WORSHIP SAFELY

## RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Thank you for understanding the need for these guidelines. Whenever we gather, we each assume a certain level of risk and responsibility. Please only assume that risk when you are comfortable doing so in relation to your personal vulnerability. Please help us protect others by embracing these guidelines responsibly.

While enhanced safety measures are being taken at Valley Community Baptist Church, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Valley, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.