

Outdoor Meeting for Worship continues; Supervised play for children begins November 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

As you know, we have been connecting with each other for worship via Zoom since March. That pathway has been working well, and we will continue to offer Zoom meeting for worship.

Starting on October 25th, we began an experiment with pandemic-appropriate outdoor in-person meeting for worship. We are gratified that our initial in-person meetings for worship, held outside at the Sidwell Friends Lower School, went well. In an effort to support and include families that may want to attend these in-person meetings, we will begin offering supervised outdoor play for children ages 4 and older during our outdoor meeting for worship, starting November 8. **In-person worship, and the supervised play, will be outdoors, rain or shine, beginning at 11 a.m.**

Supervised Play Option. Young Friends are welcome to join their families for outdoor meeting for worship. As an alternative, a supervised outdoor play option is available for children ages 4 and over.

- Children will be supervised by BFM's qualified child care employees.
- Children will be able to play on the field.
- If it is raining, children will play under a tent on the basketball courts.
- Children will not be using the SFS play equipment.
- Children must be properly dressed to remain outdoors for an hour. The tents are not heated.
- Children will have access to restrooms in the Groome Building.
- Children must wear masks, and maintain social distancing.
- Parents may drop children with the play supervisor at the tent set up on the asphalt basketball court adjacent to the soccer field at 11 a.m.
- Alternatively, children wishing to join the outdoor meeting for worship at the start can join the supervised play at 11:15 a.m.

Pre-registration of Adults and Children. As a reminder, Friends wishing to attend the in-person meeting for worship must pre-register by close of business on Friday, using the [on-line form here](#). Parents must [register](#) any children who will attend. This pre-registration is necessary to cap the number of Friends participating (so we can maintain social distancing), to provide a record of attendance in case contact tracing is necessary later, and to confirm whether we will have children so that we can schedule our childcare employees.

Safety Measures. Importantly, Friends (including children) must not attend on Sunday morning if they:

- are feeling at all ill,
- have a fever,

- have recently tested positive for COVID-19, or
- have been exposed to someone who has recently tested positive or has begun to quarantine.

By attending, you are affirming that you and your children have no symptoms and you know of no other reason why any of you should not attend.

The following rules apply to all Friends – adults and children – attending in person:

- **All Friends must wear a face mask at all times.**
- Upon arrival, Friends will wash their hands or apply hand sanitizer.
- We will maintain social distancing at all times. While playing, children will make every attempt to stay at least 6 feet apart.
- Friends will not shake hands, hug or otherwise get closer than 6 feet, or remove their face mask while at the Sidwell Friends Lower School.
- We are not encouraging Friends to take any risks that they are not totally comfortable taking.

Meeting for Worship under the Tent. As a reminder, our in-person meeting for worship is held under a tent between the Groome Building and the Manor House.

- SFS provides sanitized chairs. Chairs will be spaced out to maintain social distancing.
- The tents are open-sided and unheated. Please dress appropriately for the weather.
- There will be a member of the Ministry and Worship Committee present as “Tent Head of Meeting.”
- There will be a laptop computer to connect the in-person meeting to the simultaneous Zoom meeting.
- The restrooms in the Groome Building will be available.

All of these protocols are subject to change as we learn from our experiment.

Please email eric.sterling@gmail.com if you have questions.

Many thanks to our BFM co-clerks, the members of BFM’s ad hoc COVID-19 advisory committee, the Child Care Committee, our child care staff, and all of the others who are supporting this experiment.

As most of us endeavor to protect ourselves and loved ones from COVID, we are aware that becoming sick or fearing that one has been infected or exposed to the virus can be traumatic. Friends are encouraged to contact our Pastoral Care committee for emotional, spiritual and practical support in these situations.

In Peace,

Eric Sterling and Doug Smith
Co-clerks, BFM Ministry and Worship Committee