

UPDATED PLAN FOR INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHURCH GROUP MEETINGS

As was announced on May 28, 2021, we have revised our protocols in compliance with new rules issued by Governor Murphy and guidance issued by the CDC. Following is an updated statement of our plans as approved by the Reopening Team on June 9, 2021 and recommended for approval by Church Council on June 15, 2021. Should you have any comments or questions, please contact a member of the Reopening Team: Joel Bewley, Max Fisher, Joan Flamini, Pattie Gritzan (Co-Chair), Carlos Moco, or Robin Webb.

General Plan

- Phase I:** **One service at 10:00 a.m. Started November 8, 2020, Ended March 28, 2021.**
- Phase II:** **Beginning April 4, 2021: Two Services, 9:00 a.m. Sunday – Contemporary – in Sanctuary and live streamed to Fellowship Hall, and 11:00 a.m. Sunday – Traditional in Sanctuary. Both services available online not later than noon on Sunday.**
- Phase III:** **To be determined. We are mindful that we have not yet restored our services on Saturday evenings (Contemporary) or early Sunday mornings (Blended). We will have further discernment about these services after our new pastors are in place and we are able to determine our needs at that time.**

Current Procedures Effective 5/30/21

- Entrances** No restrictions.
- Seating** No restrictions other than to be respectful of people whom you may choose to sit near. If someone near you is wearing a mask, please allow a safe social distance for further protection.
- Capacity** No stated maximum number, however, capacity will be limited by seating arrangements. See above for “Seating.”
- Online Worship** The Sunday Contemporary and Traditional services will be live-streamed and broadcast via FaceBook and YouTube.
- Children** Children are welcome to attend worship service with their families. Children under the age of 12 will be expected to wear masks. We will not be providing Nursery services at this time.
- Use of the Parlor** The Parlor (also known as The Upper Room) may be used by families with children following the masking rules stated above or

by others who prefer to be more socially distanced than seating in the Sanctuary may permit. Space is limited in the Parlor/Upper Room and will be available only on a first-come, first-served basis. If the Parlor/Upper Room is already in use when you arrive, please be respectful of the safety and comfort of the others using the room. Additional child-friendly and socially distanced/ventilated space is available in Fellowship Hall.

- Bulletins** We will continue to distribute an electronic version of the Order of Worship and Announcements; however, we will also have paper bulletins available for those who attend service in person. These will be handed out by the Ushers. If you prefer, some will be available in the Narthex or on the welcome table in Fellowship Hall that you may pick up.
- Communion** For now, communion will continue to be offered by using single use packs that will be available when you enter the Church building. Please dispose of the container and packaging in the waste basket as you leave the building.
- Singing** Singing is permitted and encouraged! Humming, clapping, raising of hands and standing during hymns and praise songs are all permitted and encouraged as well! Hymnals and Bibles are restored to the pews.
- Masks** Masks and social distancing will no longer be required; however, masks and social distancing are strongly encouraged for those who have not been vaccinated and children under the age of 12 will be expected to wear masks. Masks may still be worn by any person for any reason. We ask that all persons be respectful of any person who is wearing a mask, including providing a safe space around anyone wearing a mask.
- Offering** For the time being, offering plates will not be passed during the service. Instead, offering plates/baskets will be available in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. As always, electronic giving or mail remain available alternatives.
- Bathrooms** No restrictions. Sanitizing wipes or spray will be available.
- Exit** Please continue to be respectful of the social distancing preferences of others.
- Attendance** Attendance for contact tracing will rely upon individually completed attendance cards, completed individually and dropped in an Offering Basket. Thank you!

If you are sick or do not feel well before coming to service, or if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 or other contagious disease:

We respectfully ask you to remain home, call your doctor and monitor your health in accordance with the directions of your doctor.

Other Topics

Cleaning Protocols: Normal, pre-Covid cleaning protocols.

Church Office: For the time being, will remain closed, except for limited usage by Staff.

Other Church Space: Church groups and Committees may book space in the Parlor/Upper Room, Chapel or Library during times when First Light is in session. Fellowship Hall and the Heritage Room may be available when First Light is not in Session. Any use of Church space should be reserved and pre-cleared through Joan Flamini. Use of masks and social distancing will follow rules set forth above. Church groups meeting in person should also arrange a Zoom connection for any member who prefers to meet virtually. Any church group or committee may also continue to meet by Zoom.

Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and Memorial Services: Indoor weddings, baptisms, funerals and memorial services are permitted in compliance with the rules set forth above. In the case of baptisms, pastors will work with families during pre-event counselling to determine if a baptism will occur during an indoor service or an alternative outdoor service and whether the sacrament will be performed with a pastor holding the infant and/or laying on hands upon the infant/child/adult being baptized. Pastors to be masked during the sacrament if family requests pastor to hold the child.

Wedding or Funeral Receptions with food and/or beverage: Compliance with then current NJ rules for health and safety protocols for indoor and outdoor dining will also be required.

Nursery, Childcare and Sunday School Classes: To be determined.

NOTE: OTHER NON-CHURCH GROUP USE OF BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEE APPROVAL AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREGOING RULES AS OTHERWISE SUPPLEMENTED BY RESTRICTIONS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR THE USING GROUP.