



Friday, July 17, 2020

Dear FPCP Family and Friends,

It is with joy and anticipation that I share with you our plans for re-opening our church for live worship services beginning Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. These plans are gradual by design.

**On Sundays, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be one service only at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. This service will last 35 minutes.**

**On Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, if all is well, two services will be offered. The first service will be at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and the second service at 11:15 am in the Upper Room. Both services will be limited to 35 minutes.**

**We hope to continue in this two-service format of 9:30 am in the sanctuary and 11:15 am in the Upper Room until the end of August but this will depend on the Covid situation and the congregational response.**

Friends, we are purposefully stepping into live worship services slowly and will move forward only as we consider at every stage of expansion the health and well-being of our church members and visitors.

Remember to love your neighbor is to care about their health. Your health and safety is our highest concern and to that end, we encourage those who are medically at a higher level of risk due to underlying medical conditions or age to remain worshiping on-line.

Rest assured our on-line worship services will continue even after we return to live services. But for those of you who wish to attend live services, please note the following safety precautions are now in place:

Since our capacity in the sanctuary is limited to approximately 65 seats due to social distancing, we ask all those who wish to attend Sunday worship to pre-register. **Beginning on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am you can pre-register for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> service through our church's website.** You will need to complete a separate sign up for each person in your family who wishes to attend. **If you do not have access to a computer, beginning on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> you can call and leave a message with your name and phone number at 734-453-6464 ext. 115 to register.** Available seats will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Registration will close at noon on the Friday prior to Sunday's worship service.

This pre-registration process allows our church to effectively participate in contact tracing. In other words, if anyone were later to be diagnosed with the virus, we would be able to contact each person present on that date to alert them of this risk.

Additionally, to proactively prevent exposure to the virus, temperature readings will be taken (with a digital contactless thermometer) before you enter the church building. A brief health screening will also be taken each week prior to entering the church building.

To facilitate this process, we are inviting everyone attending worship to enter the church via the parking lot doors. There will be two health check stations there.

Once you enter the sanctuary, I am gently preparing you now for the reality that you may not be able to sit in your favorite seat. Remember, we worship God and not our favorite pew. Instead, we have the opportunity to show our love and concern for others by sitting in the designated spot that is the safest for everyone. Ushers will guide you to your seats. You will always have the opportunity to sit together with your family members if you enter the church building together.

Please note that face masks are required as you enter the church building and throughout worship. You are invited to bring your own Bible to read in church. (All pew Bibles, church hymnals, and pew pads will be temporarily removed from pews).

Faith-filled music within the service will be provided through vocal and instrumental solos. Worship services will be without congregational singing to cut down exposure.

Although we will not be able to share a cup of coffee together we can share our gifts to God through the use of our new beautiful and contact free collection boxes located at all sanctuary entrances and exits to safely facilitate our church's offering.

In the future, we hope to add educational opportunities for children, youth, and adults. However, at this time, all children and youth are invited to attend worship services with their families or continue to worship on-line. There will be children sermons in all our on-line services until that time when our Sunday school can resume. Our nursery will also re-open once our children's programs begin.

Friends, please keep in mind that this is Plan A. We recognize depending on what happens with Covid that there might need to be a worship plan B or even C. As a church, we remain flexible and prayerful trusting that whether we worship in the building or at home, our God is with us.

Please pray for our church as we move forward with these plans and please know that your church is praying for you.

Yours in Christ,

*Emily*