



Pennsburg United Church of Christ
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July 21, 2020

Dearest siblings in Christ,

The circumstances of the coronavirus have challenged our community in ways we've never been challenged before. We have deeply missed being able to worship together, fellowship together, and serve our neighbors together. Myself, and our Consistory, thank you for your patience and continued support as we have sought to navigate these uncharted waters with an eye towards what is wisest and safest for our congregation and our wider community.

We are excited to inform you that, with Montgomery County have entered the green phase (and conditional upon there being no increase on restrictions before then), we will be re-opening the church building for in-person worship as of Sunday, August 9th. At that time, we will celebrate our being back together and our long-awaited Easter service.

However, there are a number of safety guidelines that will be in place and must be followed in order for us to ensure that gatherings continue to be as safe as possible. All attendees will be asked to sign in and provide contact information. By signing in, you will be accepting the potential risk and agreeing to abide by the guidelines as follows. If you are uncomfortable with the risk or unwilling to follow the guidelines, you are not being forced to attend in person. An online livestream of worship will continue to be offered via Zoom in the church's Zoom room (which is different than the previous number we'd been using so take note. For those calling in by phone, the initial call in number will remain the same [215-679-7513](tel:2156797513)). This is the Meeting ID for Zoom worship beginning August 9th: [9212121212](https://us02zoom.us/j/9212121212).

These are the safety guidelines that will be in place:

1. **First and foremost, please DO NOT ATTEND worship services if you feel sick, are having symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in recent contact with another individual who is sick.** This is a matter of Christian responsibility to our fellow church members and our larger community. Even if you are asymptomatic, if there is the chance that you may transmit the virus to others, please stay home.
2. **Masks must be worn, appropriately over nose and mouth, at all times during the service and while in the building.** If you forget your mask, extra masks will be available at the church.
3. **Maintain proper social distancing (6' or more) between yourself and individuals not in your family at all times.** Although we are re-opening the building, we are still discouraging

against close socialization or physical contact. Please refrain from handshakes or hugs with non-family members. And, please do not congregate before or after the worship service.

4. **Hand sanitizer will be available and placed throughout the church building.** Use it liberally.
5. **Due to sanitary concerns, please limit the use of the restroom. If you must use the restroom, ensure that you are washing your hands adequately before returning to worship.** Additionally, the women's restroom in the nursery will be closed. The men's restroom will be designated a single occupant unisex restroom.
6. **Only enter and exit the building through the backside glass door. The nursery and Miller Hall will be closed during services.** This will help limit the amount of traffic through the church building as well as still allow access to the chair lift and restroom.
7. **The church building will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each service, including light switches, door knobs, railings, and pews.**

These are the adjustments that we are making to our worship in order to aid in following the safety guidelines:

8. **We will be holding worship in the sanctuary at 10 AM.** Even though it may be warm initially, the ability to block off pews and having more open space will be more conducive to maintaining the social distancing guidelines.
9. **Offering plates will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary.** Please deposit your offering upon arriving or exiting.
10. **All materials will be removed from the backs of the pews.** The less that there is to touch, the less opportunity there is for transmission of germs, and the less there is to clean.
11. **We will continue worshipping without bulletins by using the projection system.**
12. **There will NOT be corporate singing.** But, we will have the ability to listen to both live and recorded music as part of worship.
13. **Communion will be served using self-contained disposable cups to avoid any contamination of the elements.** This includes the first Sunday we return when we will celebrate our long-awaited Easter service.

Again, thank you for your patience and your cooperation as we return to in-person gatherings. We look forward to seeing you!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Matt

