

Phase 1: Outdoor Services (Beginning July 5th)

I think we are blessed with the fact that the weather is getting warmer. I'm envisioning a short service:

Gathering Music

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Short Sermon

Prayers of the People

Offering

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude/Dismissal Music

Currently, there is not a limit to how many people can gather for an outdoor service. People can choose to stay in their cars or bring lawn chairs to sit just outside of their cars. We will also provide a few folding chairs for those who would like to sit outside. These chairs can be brought back in the church

- We would need a person directing traffic so people are spaced evenly apart, at least 6 feet apart.
- We will need one person responsible for taking attendance. If there are any visitors, they will be given a visitor's card to fill out and drop in the offering box.
- Regarding Offering: An offering box with an opening in the top is being made for us by Bob Hatfield at pleasant Grove UMC. The box will sit on a stand with a sign directing people. People giving their offerings will be directed to go up to the offering box one at a time at a safe distance. Online giving is also still encouraged. Visitor cards can be placed in this box. Counters will sit inside the church at the conclusion of the service at least six feet apart while counting.
- At this time, we are not encouraged by the state to sing together in groups - as the thinking is droplets travel further when singing. To start, outside worship would not include songs or corporate praying. To start - this gathering would be a simple, short service.
- If the weather is bad (raining, etc.) at this time we will cancel that Sunday service. There are logistics to moving into the building that are going to take some planning before we are able to move into the building safely. In the event that church is cancelled on a Sunday due to the weather, we could reschedule for a rain date for a mid-week prayer service.
- Wearing face masks is encouraged.
- Rotation schedule for parking lot ushers, counters, set up and break down volunteers created and confirmed by June 29th.

Phase 2: Indoor services

Currently, the NJ Governor has approved indoor services with no more than 50 people, or 20% capacity. I believe our maximum seating capacity in the sanctuary is 75 people. This would allow us about 20 people in the sanctuary in the event of rain or poor weather. I am envisioning resuming worship services inside in the sanctuary in the fall only when the weather is not as warm or suitable. Both plans are very fluid, and contingent on whatever the current state guidelines might be.

- Worship: Same simple approach as outdoor service. Short and simple. No singing or corporate prayers, for now.
- People are encouraged to enter the front red doors, using the ramp and entering at least six feet apart at a safe distance. People will be met by a greeter and directed where to sit.
- Families sit together, every other row. An usher would direct people where to sit. We will direct people to the front of the sanctuary first.
- Offering is taken by utilizing the offering box which will be at the entrance of the church.
- Rest rooms have Clorox wipes, and everyone who uses the bathroom is encouraged to wipe down surfaces after use and wash their hands. Rest rooms will be open, but people will be asked not to use them unless it's an emergency.
- There is a hand sanitizer station at the exit for use before leaving.
- All attendees are encouraged to wear masks. We have a supply to provide masks for anyone who needs one.
- People will exit the sanctuary from the back of the church first, one family or individual at a time at least six feet apart. People will be asked to use the ramp to exit.
- All church hymnals and loose items in the pews will be removed and stored away at this time until it is safe to have these items out again. This will help in better cleaning prior to the next Sunday service.
- We create a cleaning checklist for deep cleaning on the Thursday or Friday prior to the next Sunday service.
- No fellowship time until it is safe to do so.

Continue to develop our online services

- We can continue to record our contributions from home, or together at the church at a safe distance. Our deadline for recording would be Thursday evening prior to the Sunday service.
- Need to make decisions on best licensing package for presenting online music.

Care Team

I am looking to redevelop the concept of the Care Team in light of our current situation. Many of you are already, instinctively doing what I'd like to organize - and I am so grateful for your hearts. I will be reaching out to a group of people that I think will be good to invite to be on this team this week.

- Weekly calls to shut ins (shut ins prior to COVID 19)
- Weekly calls to all members
- Collecting used Kindles or devices that work well (and are easy to use) that people can donate to give to people so they can view our online service. (ie: Paul Bartek)
- Monthly card writing.

Communion Sundays

On Communion Sundays, people are invited to ring their own bread and juice to be blessed. We will provide pre-packaged communion elements for anyone who either doesn't have their own bread and drink. These elements will be packaged in bags that people can be directed to pick up what they need at a safe distance from others in a line with signage. People prepping and packaging the communion elements we are offering will wear masks and gloves.