

## **Shawnee Presbyterian Church Reopening Plan**

*5/31/2021*

### **Mission**

The Reopening Committee follows guidelines from the CDC, the Pennsylvania Health Department, and our Presbytery while developing a plan that allows our congregation and community to gather for worship in a safe and responsible manner.

In these uncertain times when we have been unable to come together in worship, we are sustained by the knowledge that the church is not the building; it is God's people (Ephesians 2:19-22). If the church must remain closed due to a resurgence of the virus or other factors, we remain committed to serving the community to the best of our ability through alternative worship options and continued mission work (Matthew 28:19-20). We hold fast to the truth that God is with us through all trials (Joshua 1:9).

### **Goals**

The Reopening Committee is mindful of the need for sustainability through the change of seasons, holidays, staff capacity/burnout, and the course of the pandemic. This plan will be updated as circumstances develop.

### **Reopening Plan**

#### **Masks/Ventilation**

- Worshipers who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask from arrival to departure.
- All doors and windows will remain open year-round, weather permitting. On days when the weather is below 50°F (10°C), windows will remain closed and the church will be preheated. Once seating begins, the heat will be turned off to minimize air circulation.
- Window fans will be turned on when windows are open. Ceiling fans will not be turned on.
- A supply of masks will be provided by SPC at the door for visitors who need them.
- Worshipers who feel ill are encouraged to remain at home and view the service when it is shared online.

#### **Communication**

- The congregation will receive the Safety Guidelines via email and newsletter.
- The general public may find the Safety Guidelines on the SPC website and Facebook. The church answering machine will refer callers to the Safety Guidelines online.
- The radio station will run an announcement referring listeners to the Safety Guidelines online.
- Local timeshares will be contacted to make sure they have the correct information to share with their guests.
- Guidelines will encourage worshipers to take personal responsibility for their safety by following all precautions.
- Guidelines will encourage worshipers to bring a "Worship Kit" containing basic sanitation supplies and other items they deem necessary, such as a Bible, to enjoy worship and avoid placing the burden of supplies or cleaning on SPC. Scripture readings will continue to be printed in the bulletin.

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### **Arrival & Seating**

- The Deacons will manage a schedule for each Sunday that includes a) one greeter and one usher or b) two ushers. Safety guidelines for these roles will be provided to those who volunteer.
- The greeter will encourage worshippers to use hand sanitizer provided at the door upon entry and exit.

### **Worship**

- Worshipers should limit drinks to bottled water or beverages in travel mugs with secure lids. SPC will not provide bottled water.
- Installations and ordinations may take place, but the laying on of hands will be omitted.
- SPC will provide pre-packaged Communion kits at the door, containing wafers and juice. Worshipers who require gluten-free wafers or who prefer wine will be encouraged to bring their own in their personal Worship Kits.
- Hymn singing will resume in June.
- Offering plates will be set on small tables at the exit. Worshipers will also be encouraged to donate online. Money counting procedures will be set by the office staff/finance committee.
- The service will be live-streamed on Facebook, recorded for broadcast on the radio, and posted on YouTube. The sermon notes will be posted on the website.

### **Cleaning**

- Trash receptacles will be provided outside the church exit for masks and wipes.
- Restrooms in the CE building will be available. Signage will be provided to direct visitors to wipe down all surfaces using provided wipes. A trash receptacle will be placed outside.
- Rooms and resources in the CE building should be used at a minimum, if at all, to reduce the burden of cleaning.

### **Church Life**

- Committees have the option to meet remotely or in person.
- Rev. Hawk will work with appropriate advisors to develop procedures for congregational care, home visits, etc.
- Special events such as funerals and weddings, when held by SPC, will follow the same guidelines as for worship.
- For special events by outside groups, including the hostel program, SPC's obligation is to provide a sanitized facility. However, SPC is not responsible for making sure outside groups follow guidelines during their event. Agreements have been amended to state that SPC cannot be held liable if groups do not follow proper social distancing procedures from the CDC and PA Health Department.

### **Contact Us**

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