

Shawnee Presbyterian Church Reopening Plan
7/12/2020

Safety Guidelines

Welcome back to worship!

“I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.” – 2 Timothy 1:4

Shawnee Presbyterian Church is committed to reopening for worship in accordance with the safety guidelines of the CDC, PA Health Department, and Lehigh Presbytery.

Please accept personal responsibility for following these steps out of respect for your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you feel ill or believe you may have been exposed to someone who is ill, please stay home.

Masks

- In accordance with the current Pennsylvania mandate, worshipers must wear a mask from arrival to departure. This is a symbol of respect and love for each other.
- Disposable masks will be provided at the door for those who do not have one.
- Worshipers who cannot wear a mask for health reasons will be seated in the balcony.
- Worshipers who will not wear a mask for personal reasons or cannot access the balcony are encouraged to remain at home and view the service when it is shared online.

Worship & Seating

1. Plan to allow plenty of extra time when arriving for worship. You will need to wait outside the church until you can be individually ushered to a pew. Spreading out arrival times will help us avoid seating delays.
 - a. **July 19 through August 30:** Church doors will open at 9 a.m. for the 9:30 service.
 - b. **September:** The service time beginning in September has not been determined. Worshipers should refer to the newsletter, website, or radio announcements for information about September service times.
2. Worshipers who have already been sharing a social connection (families, households, friend groups) may sit together. Worshipers who have not been sharing an existing connection will be seated with 6-foot distancing from other worshipers.
3. Efforts will be made to ensure that the service does not exceed 45 minutes.
4. **If you will be coming with more than four people**
In order to better manage seating and avoid delays, if there are more than four people in your group, please leave a message at the church in advance at 570.421.5518. This will allow us to mark off enough seats for you to sit together. If you are willing to sit in smaller groups, there is no need to call ahead.

Cleaning

1. The church will be thoroughly cleaned before each service.
2. Restrooms will be available, but worshipers are encouraged to use their own facilities at home before coming to church. Restroom users will need to clean all surfaces with provided wipes before exiting.

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3. Rooms and resources in the CE building should be used at a minimum, if at all, to reduce the burden of cleaning.

Health & Safety

1. All windows and doors will be propped open and the fans will be running. Please dress accordingly.
2. We encourage you to pack a “Worship Kit” with the essentials you need to feel safe and enjoy worship. Your Worship Kit should include:
 - a. Hand sanitizer
 - b. Wipes
 - c. Bible, if desired (Bibles have been removed from the pews)
 - d. SPC will provide free Communion kits containing regular wafers and juice; you may wish to pack Gluten-free wafers and Communion wine or other Host according to your needs and preferences. Communion is held on the first Sunday of each month.
 - e. Bottled water or beverages in travel mugs with secure lids. SPC will not provide bottled water.
3. In accordance with safety guidelines, no congregational singing will take place. Hymnals have been removed from the pews. We acknowledge that music is one of the most meaningful parts of worship, but for the safety of all, please refrain from singing along, or restrict yourself to humming.
4. Please remember to maintain social distancing outside the church and in the parking lot. Observe a 6-foot distance when socializing, and refrain from hugging, shaking hands, etc.

Church Life

1. No Sunday School will be held. The Reopening Committee is looking into online options for children. Children must remain with their family/guardians while on the property and will not be permitted to roam the grounds or buildings.
2. Please contact the church if you need information on procedures to follow for events such as Baptisms, weddings, or funerals.
3. For congregants who cannot attend worship, the service will be recorded. Please contact the church if you would like to view the service and do not have internet access.
4. Committees will continue to meet remotely to avoid additional cleaning demands in the buildings.

Church Contacts

Phone: 570.421.5518

Website: <https://www.shawneepresbyterianchurch.net/>

Email: shawneechurch@verizon.net

Radio: WCSD-LP 104.9 FM or 101.7 FM