

WPC PLANS TO RE-GATHER and Open the Building

Church Family & Friends,

We are sharing our plan to re-open our church building and re-gather in person. Please know we come from a place of care and love for all, and our hope is to provide a safe space of worship for every one of you. This includes taking into consideration that some are ready to return to worship immediately and others will not feel comfortable until medical advances are made in regard to COVID-19. As always, the body of Christ's unity and togetherness is our main goal.

The leadership of WPC (session and staff) developed plans to slowly return to in-person worship over the course of the next few weeks as a way of providing for each and every one of you. We have developed a 4-Stage Plan that is adaptable and can be adjusted as needed, based on government allowances and the re-opening of our state. While we have been granted permission to gather in-person indoors with up to 50 people (25% of capacity), our plan is to arrive there systematically and with intention. We will put safety and care for all as our first priority with the underlying value to "Love One Another" as Jesus commands. You will notice we are not assigning specific dates to the stages of re-gathering so we can make decisions flexibly and responsibly for the members of our church family.

We encourage all to think of others first and practice "Loving Your Neighbor". Love encompasses sacrifice and understandings as well as compassion and patience. For example, you may not feel as though you need to wear a mask to worship, but maybe you choose to wear one out of care for others who feel safer when they see everyone in a mask. Or maybe you are not ready to return to worship and you decide to continue online for an extended period, but you respect the decision of others to do so. Together we can commit to love each other well, consider others' needs, and be faithful in worship as the Church of Jesus Christ.

Please know we will continue online worship throughout all four stages, while slowly incorporating in-person worship experiences and opportunities for fellowship over the next few weeks/months. We have included details regarding the practices of social distancing, the prep of the facility, the stages of re-opening, and registration for all events.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN PLAY FOR ALL EVENTS

- Social Distancing at all events (6 feet apart from non-family members)
- Masks are highly recommended for all indoor meetings/events, (if social distancing is not possible, they are required, i.e. a Life Group of 8 people in the Coffee Shop).
Outdoor events – masks are recommended if you need to be within 6 feet of non-family members.
- Hand Sanitizer is available, and all are encouraged to bring their own.
- Seats will be set up ahead of time according to stipulated distancing (pews blocked off when the Sanctuary is used). The area used will be sanitized between events.
- Outdoor Events will be “BYO” (bring your own chair/blanket/food)!
- **Pre-registration (online at our website) will be required for ALL large group gatherings.** (This is to document maximum capacity numbers as well as to document attendance in lieu of COVID-19 cases or outbreak.)

BUILDING PREP TO REOPEN

- Prep Entrances (sanitize and prop open doors for events/worship when possible)
- General Cleaning (John Draper and crew have been cleaning and will do a deep cleaning again the week before we open for in-house programming. We will encourage small group ministries to wipe down rooms after use as well.)
- Prep Gathering Spaces (set up chairs far apart in compliance with social distancing, fill hand sanitizer stations, sanitize surfaces in between events)
 - Prep Sanctuary (rope off pews for social distances, sanitize, and clean)
 - Prep Restrooms (clean, prop doors open when possible, fill hand soap dispensers)

4 STAGES TO RE-OPEN THE BUILDING & RE-GATHERING

Session, along with Pastor Eryn, will decide when it is safe and appropriate to move from one stage to the next and announce those dates in advance. Below we provide general guidelines, but adjustments may be made as needed.

1. **STAGE ONE** (2-4 weeks)

A. SMALL GROUPS: Building is open for small group ministries (50 and under inside, groups up to 100 may gather outside. On June 22nd, groups of 250 may meet outside, and beginning on July 3rd, up to 500 people may gather outdoors).

This includes: meetings, Life Groups, DivorceCare, Griefshare, AA, EA, Session, Alpha, etc.) Please email Elaine in the Church Office, and let her know if you are going to begin meeting at church, including when and where.

B. WORSHIP: Online worship on Sundays will continue at 9:00 and 10:30.

1. Life Groups are encouraged to meet (as comfortable) to watch the service together.

2. Small groups of people can meet, up to 50 inside and 100 outside,

3. Host a Watch Party at your home to gather with friends to watch the service.

C. PRAYER SERVICE: Wednesday Night, Live on Facebook, will continue online through July 1st.

D. BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS: Members are invited to come Thursday evenings to our worship recording sessions in order to view the behind-the-scenes action and plug in when possible. Look for online registration (event limited in number).

E. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Zoom and Video lessons for kids (alternating)

F. YOUTH MINISTRY

Zoom Youth Group

Video Lessons

2. STAGE TWO (2-4 weeks)

A. SMALL GROUPS: Same as Stage One

B. WORSHIP: Sunday Morning Worship Online continues (9:00am and 10:30am)

We will provide an **alternative service to Sunday Worship** with live music and prayer - informal and FAMILY FRIENDLY (100-500 max outside (dates from state guidelines, 50 max inside)

(Details to come regarding the day/time of IN-PERSON WORSHIP)

THIS SERVICE WILL NOT BE ON SUNDAY MORNING

C. WEDNESDAY PRAYER Service: Hosted in person at the church in the Sanctuary 7:00PM (after July 1st)

D. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- 1.Small Group Children's Ministry Programming Opportunities
- 2.Activities for Kids such as: bike rides, movie nights, game nights
- 3.Online VBS: parents do at home with kids, materials supplied by WPC

a.Possible in-person option for one day to kick off, but we will not host a week-long VBS this year (still planning).

b.All guidelines for this fall under Summer Camp Guidelines (put out by CDC and NJ Government).

E. YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Funday Event (outdoors, shaped to guidelines)

3. STAGE THREE (1-2 weeks)

A. SMALL GROUPS: Same as Stage One

B. WORSHIP: Sunday online services continue at 9:00 and 10:30am
IN-PERSON Gather to watch Online Service together (9:00am, 10:30am)

1.Hosted by a WPC Elder or Staff

2.Pre-registration required (50 max per service)

3.A step to transition back to in-person worship

C. WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER: In-person in Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall

D. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Small Group Children's Ministry Programming Opportunities

Activities for Kids such as: bike rides, movie nights, game nights

E. YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Funday Event (outdoors, shaped to guidelines)

Activities will increase as the state restrictions are lifted.

4. STAGE FOUR (This stage will begin as soon as our Leadership feels it is safe and appropriate, and our staff is prepared to do so. Please know we will always be prepared move back a stage if guidelines change or it is necessary.)

A. SMALL GROUPS: Same as Stage One

B. WORSHIP: 2 parts

1.ONLINE: the 9:00am service continues online, but is LIVE Sunday and not pre-recorded and edited (similar to pre-Pandemic Online Worship, but with improvements in quality).

2.In-Person worship begins at 9:00am and 10:30am, based on guidelines and practicing social distancing.

WPC CHOIR: Due to safety concerns, it will be sometime before we can have our traditional choir sing again. However, there will be solos and duets, and our music staff will creatively find ways for us to worship through music.

C. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday morning children's ministry begins, (following guidelines with social distancing).

D. YOUTH MINISTRY

Plans to resume youth group and regular youth ministry, (with the new guidelines).

We realize this is A LOT of information. Please know we will keep you in the loop weekly regarding Worship, events, prayer services, and programming. Follow us on *Instagram* and *Facebook* and/or check your *E-news* so you will always know what is happening. We reiterate – this plan is flexible, which allows our leadership to make decisions week by week and month by month.

We cannot wait to see you face-to-face. Although we miss you all so much, we also understand everyone is not in the same place in regard to feeling safe and deeming when it is safe to return in person. For this reason we have decided to implement this 4-Stage Plan, to take our time, to offer various opportunities for worship and fellowship, and to care for each one of you!

Thank you for your flexibility, support, patience, and love. If you have questions, please email info@woodstowchurch.com, and a leader will touch base with you.

Have you taken the Re-Gathering survey? If not, [click here](#) to take it now.

And remember: Faith over Fear, Worship over Worry, Peace over Panic.

In Love,

The Session of WPC & Pastor Eryn