COVID-19 Guidelines for Worshipping in Our Sanctuary
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. beginning October 18, 2020

Here are the guidelines that our Session has established for worshipping in the sanctuary:

- Anyone who feels ill should not enter the building.
- Attendance will be limited to 48 reservations (1-5 people) and an online reservation will be required.
- Anyone who enters our building over the age of five must wear a mask.
- As you enter, please use the no-touch sanitizing stations located near the doors and in the hallways.
- People may occupy the sanctuary and main hallway leading to the sanctuary, but all other parts of the building will be off limits.
- Everyone must practice social distancing by keeping a space of at least six feet between themselves and non-family members.
- You will only be able to enter the sanctuary through the narthex (the back of the sanctuary) by way of the main hallway, the pavilion, or the bell tower. No one should enter or exit through the side transept door.
- For safety, the ushers will show you where you sit. To prevent people from walking near others who are already seated, ushers will lead worshipers to fill the side transepts first. They will fill the pews from back to front.
- After the transepts are full, seating will begin in the nave (the middle section of the sanctuary). People will fill the pews from the front to the back.
- In the balcony, worshipers will fill the pews from the second pew from the rail to the back pew.
- Only one reservation (1 – 5 people) will be permitted to sit on a pew (to the left or the right side) in alternating pews. The seating will look something like this:

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  XXX

  XXX

  XXX

  XXX
• Our four choristers will sing hymns and anthems, but sadly, there will be no choir or congregational singing until the pandemic ends. The choristers will sing from behind plexiglass.

• Bibles, hymnals, and Friendship/attendance pads will be removed from the sanctuary. In place of passing an offering plate, there will be offering boxes for your tithes and gifts.

• At the conclusion of the service, worshipers will exit the nave from the back to the front (to prevent people walking past others). Worshipers will exit the side transepts (through the narthex) from front to back after all worshipers in the nave have left the sanctuary.

• Upon exiting the sanctuary, please leave the building. You may want to have a conversation with others you have missed during the lockdown. We ask that you please meet them on the Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk or lawn, the 13th Street sidewalk, or the parking lot, maintaining the required six-foot social distancing, while continuing to wear your mask.

• Restrooms in the main hallway will be open, but restricted to one person at a time.

• If you or someone in your family should test positive for COVID-19 after attending worship, please contact Greg or Sudie immediately so that we can contact everyone who attended worship that day.

As you know, during this pandemic, no church, grocery, office, or any other place can provide a guarantee against contracting COVID-19. However, if we follow these steps (which comply with the church reopening orders issued by Governor John Carney), we should dramatically lessen the possibility of spreading illness.

Some of you will not return to the sanctuary to worship until a vaccine is available. That is completely understandable; no one should feel pressured into attending worship in person. We will continue to provide a recorded online service each week, which can be found on our website at www.wpc.org.