

St. John's United Church of Christ – Phased Regathering Plan COVID-19

St. John's UCC has adopted the following guidelines to reopen church operations and activities relative to the COVID-19 outbreak. Movement between phases will be guided by mandates and directives from the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Health with additional guidance from the church insurance carrier. The regathering team will recommend to Consistory when to implement movement; Consistory will vote on that implementation before movement can take place.

Phase I (Modified)

Worship Services

- All in-person worship is not permitted.
- Worship services are offered electronically via a platform or platforms chosen by the Pastor.
- Church members are notified from the church office how and when pre-recorded services are available.

Small Group Activities

- All in-person small group activities are not permitted including but not limited to choir, bell choir, Bible studies, youth activities, and Sunday school classes.
- Virtual church school classes and small group activities may be offered.
- In-person ministry meetings are discouraged unless it is not possible for those teams to conduct their work via video or conference calls.
- Ministry teams are encouraged to hold meetings via video or conference calls.
- Food events are not permitted.

Building Access

- The office is closed to the public.
- Anyone using the building during office hours must sign in at the church office.
- Room 116 is available for groups to meet in the event essential church business must be conducted in-person up to a maximum of 10 people. Meetings held via video or conference calls are encouraged.
- Anyone granted access to the building must follow the In-Person Guidelines outlined below.

Church Rentals

- Church spaces are not available for rental purposes.
- Organizations renting space inside the church building are not permitted to meet.

Nursery School

- The Nursery School remains closed to students and parents.
- The Nursery School has suspended operations for the 2020-21 school year.

In-Person Guidelines

- Rooms used for finance and personnel meetings must be reserved in advance through the church office.
- Organizers of in-person meetings must be members with pre-existing key card access.
- In the event an in-person meeting takes place the following guidelines must be followed.
 - Sanitize hands before and after entering the room
 - Sanitize the tables and chairs after use
 - Enter the building only through the back doors (Fellowship Hall)
 - Use only the back hallway (Fellowship Hall) restrooms if necessary
 - Social distancing of at least 6 ft. must be observed
 - Facial coverings (masks and/or shields) should be worn, particularly if social distancing can't be observed
 - Offer an alternative attendance option for any ministry member not comfortable attending in person (Zoom, phone, etc.)
 - A maximum of 10 people is permitted to attend.