

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 IV

Worship Services (Indoors)

- Bulletins and handouts are created. Members are encouraged to bring their own bulletins from home. A "greeter" will wear gloves and pass out bulletins to those who desire a bulletin. Bulletins should be taken home or recycled at the end of the service.
- Bibles, hymnals, pew pads, offering envelopes, and pencils are removed from the Sanctuary.
- The Order of Worship will be modified to reduce congregational singing.
- Masks are strongly recommended to be worn while in worship.
- Social distancing should be observed when entering and exiting the building.
- Pews will be marked off to designate seating.
- The Deacon-in-Charge will dismiss people at the end of the service.
- Alternative methods of in-person communion will be implemented (bring your own elements and/or utilize pre-packaged cups)
- Offering will be collected at the end of the service with a basket provided for such giving. Other members of the congregation are encouraged to mail their offering.
- Personal touch rituals will not be part of the worship service.
- In-person fellowship and Coffee hour is not available before and after services or events. Virtual fellowship gatherings will be offered on Zoom.
- Nursery and toddler care are not available.
- Children's Time will be modified as needed by the Director of Children and Youth.
- Masks and hand sanitizer are available. Greeters will point these out to those attending services.
- Instead of ushers, we will utilize these people as greeters. Greeters will open all doors for people to minimize common surfaces being touched. Greeters will wear gloves to disinfect surfaces and pick up any items left in the pews after the service.
- Worship services will continue to be offered electronically via a platform or platforms chosen by the Pastor.
- Church members will be notified from the church office how and when pre-recorded services are available.

Small Group Activities

- Full senior choir and bell choir remain unavailable.
- Small choral and bell choir groups will be arranged at the discretion of their respective directors. All In-Person Guidelines must be followed during rehearsals.
- Church school classes may resume in person at the discretion of the facilitator.
- Alternative virtual church school classes may also be offered.
- Youth activities may resume at the discretion of the Director of Children and Youth. The format of the activities/gatherings will be determined by health and safety.
- Food events are permitted, with care and social distancing.
- In-person ministry meetings and committees are allowed.
- Mission/Outreach events are permitted. Participation in these events should be determined based on the health and safety of those attending.
- Small worship, educational, and social gatherings are permitted.
- In-Person Guidelines must continue to be followed.

Building Access

- The Office is open to the public.
- Anyone using the building during office hours must sign in at the church office.
- Rooms are available for use. Anyone using the building must follow the In-Person Guidelines.

Church Rentals

- Church spaces are available for rental purposes following In-Person Guidelines.
- Organizations renting or using space inside the church building are permitted to meet.

Nursery School

- The Nursery School will follow the schedule and guidelines from the CASD.
- The Nursery School Ministry will make additional decisions about the operations of SJNS.

In-Person Guidelines

- Organizers of in-person meetings must coordinate building access through the church office.
- Rooms must be reserved through the church office.
- Event organizers are required to maintain an attendance list and share it with the church office.
- When in-person gatherings take place the following guidelines must be followed.
 - Sanitize hands before and after entering the room
 - Sanitize the tables and chairs after use
 - Social distancing of at least 6 ft. must be observed
 - Facial coverings should be available for use if social distancing can't be observed
 - Offer an alternative attendance option for any ministry member not comfortable attending in person (Zoom, phone, etc.)
 - The maximum number of people permitted is determined by the size of the room that is reserved for the event.