

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WHITINSVILLE

REOPENING PLAN

May 31, 2020

The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville wants to re-open for worship in the sanctuary on May 31, 2020 for those who feel safe in attending, given the safety measures described below. People who have underlying health issues, are over 65, are immunocompromised, and/or have symptoms of any illness, including a fever of 99.5° F or higher, or believe they could have been exposed to illness of any kind within the last 14 days will be asked to remain at home and continue to worship at a distance by watching the live-streamed service. Persons under isolation and/or quarantine orders by the Northbridge Board of Health are required to remain at home.

The following safety plan is recommended by the church's Reopening Committee, after Dr. Anna Santoro, Commander, U. S. Health Service, a member of our church, has reviewed the plan and concurred with its safety.

Our sanctuary has a cathedral design, with a high, vaulted ceiling, and per its Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Town of Northbridge is designed to hold 300 people. Under normal conditions, Sunday worship attendance averages between 65 and 75 people. We have ample space in the sanctuary to insure a minimum of 6 feet between individuals and between families whose members live together. Until advised otherwise, we will adhere to the 40% occupancy restriction or 120 people.

Our sexton thoroughly disinfects the entire sanctuary area every Saturday. She uses PineSol on surfaces, Lysol spray on the sound board and microphones, and Windex on glass surfaces. She disinfects all pews, light switches, hand rails, door knobs, collection plates, as well as the piano, pulpit, and Worship Leader's lectern. In addition, after each service the microphones are disassembled, sprayed with a bleach solution, and when dry reassembled. The pastor has a dedicated lapel microphone that is stored in its own lidded box on a separate shelf.

Those who attend the service must wear masks and use hand sanitizer that contains a minimum of 70% alcohol upon entering the building.

There will be no socializing inside the building before or following the service.

One door will be designated "Enter Only," and one will be designated "Exit Only."

Doors will be left open during the service for increased ventilation, and a large exhaust fan will be run for 20 min. following the service to exhaust air out of the sanctuary.

Anyone needing to use the ramp to enter and exit the building will be instructed to contact the church office by Friday so that arrangements can be made for him/her to enter and exit safely.

All bathrooms will be closed off. In the event of a bathroom emergency, a bathroom can be accessed, but an usher will then block it from further use. Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected after use.

Attendees will remain in the sanctuary area and shall be prohibited from entering the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

Only pews designated with a ribbon will be available for use, and a cross will mark the spot where someone may sit, providing for 8 to 10 feet physical distancing.

There will be 2 empty pews in front of and behind each occupied pew, providing in excess of 6 feet for proper physical distancing.

Ushers will be available to help people find designated seating.

No one will be seated within 8 feet of the pianist.

Attendees will not sing during the service, with the exception of one or two singers, who are part of the worship leading team. They will be at least 15 feet from attendees and at least 10 feet from each other.

There will be no Bibles, hymnals, pens, or pencils in the pew racks or on the Greeting Desk inside the front entrance. No materials (such as information packets) will be available.

An offering plate will be placed on a table so that attendees can drop offerings in the plate as they enter the sanctuary. Wearing gloves, a Trustee will remove the offerings and properly store them after the service.

Bulletins will not be dispensed. People may either print the bulletin that was emailed to them the previous Friday or use the large sanctuary screen, which will display all necessary print material.

No food or drink will be allowed in the sanctuary.

Photos will be taken showing where people are seated in case contact tracing is ever needed.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dr. Susan L. DeHoff, on behalf of the Session and Trustees.