

**Sanctuary Church**  
**COVID19- Reopening Plan**  
**Trustees Approved 6/25/20**

With Gov. Wolf's announcement that Montgomery County will move to Green Phase on June 26<sup>th</sup>, Sanctuary's Trustees, in collaboration with Leadership Council and Staff have developed the following re-opening plan!

Our foremost concern is for the safety of our Congregation, Staff and worship contributors. With that in mind, we will proceed cautiously with a "soft" re-opening beginning **July 12<sup>th</sup>**. We will hold our two standard services at their usual times 9:15 and 10:30.

Initially, we will **not** offer Nursery or Sunday School and will instead encourage families to come and sit together. (this will be reassessed in early August)

**What can I expect when we reopen?**

*Note: The building has undergone a complete "deep cleaning" and we have implemented a set of procedures to ensure we maintain an enhanced cleaning/sanitizing schedule.*

We ask that everyone (staff included) stay home if they are ill or if someone in their household has the virus.

We will follow the CDC recommendations to mitigate community spread of the virus by adopting the following practices.

- Masks will be worn by all who enter the building for the duration of the time spend indoors. (We will have a supply of masks available should someone arrive without one).
- We will have hand sanitizing stations at each entrance and encourage everyone to use as they enter and exit.
- We will utilize our worship spaces in such a way to follow the recommended 6' physical distancing.

**What will Worship be like?**

We will avoid as many touchpoints as possible by doing things like:

- Not handing out bulletins- projecting the Scripture Readings and Liturgy
- Not passing the collection plate- they will be stationed by the entrances
- Not shaking hands during time of greeting
- Utilizing different methods for Communion (i.e. "to go" communion cups, etc.)
- **Singing** – It's hard to imagine not singing along with hymns or hearing an Anthem from our choir. We have learned that the act of singing presents a high risk of spreading the virus and will adjust worship to provide for alternative music. (i.e. solos, duets, etc.)
- During this initial period, we will encourage people not to congregate in lobby area while arriving and leaving to ensure we are doing our best to continually maintain appropriate distancing.
- For now, we'll forgo our fellowship coffee hour.

While, these changes will take some adjusting to, we can be encouraged by knowing that they are temporary. As soon as it is safe to move beyond some of these limitations we will do so. In the meantime, we are blessed to be able to have enough space to safely gather for worship.

**What if I'm not able or not ready to attend in-person?**

We understand that we have people who, for a variety of reasons are not able to attend church on Sunday mornings. Our priority is to develop an effective way to provide an ongoing alternative to our in-person worship experience. If COVID19 has taught us anything, it's reminded us of the need to be accessible to *everyone*.

**What about small groups and various meetings?**

Leaders may schedule on site meetings now as long as you ensure the room is large enough to accommodate 6' distancing guidelines. Wearing of masks and use of sanitizing stations are required. Note: Please schedule rooms via [info@sanctuarychurc.org](mailto:info@sanctuarychurc.org) so we can ensure they are properly cleaned/sanitized by staff after each use.