

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your session met yesterday for their stated meeting, and among our discussion was the topic of preparing to open the building for worship. I say the “building” as opposed to the word “church”, as we have been meeting and worshipping together as a church, although by electronic means and by spirit, during this time of pandemic quarantine. However, given the current patterns of infection and death in the state, we feel that we should be able to resume worship in the building in the near future. At our meeting today, the session voted to work toward resuming worship in the building beginning on Sunday, June 21, 2020.

That being said, please bear in mind that this is a goal, and is subject to change, pending updates regarding the COVID-19 reports as well as our ability to prepare the building for our return.

Speaking of change, there is an old saying, “How many Presbyterians does it take to change a lightbulb?” The answer: “What do you mean, Change?” As indicated in earlier letters, there will be some changes to our order of worship and to our building usage to maximize the health and safety of the congregation. Among the changes, you will see:

- a request and check for people who are ill or showing symptoms to worship with us on zoom or by other means. Also, if you have an underlying health condition, or caring for someone who does, we would ask that you consider carefully joining us in our ongoing zoom worship or by reading the sermons.
- Seating will be altered to allow social distancing between individuals and/or family groups. Greeter/ushers will be available to assist you in finding a seat that allows adequate space between groups.
- Masks, while not required to participate in worship, will be strongly encouraged. Both freshly cleaned cloth (recyclable) and disposable masks will be available upon entry if you do not have your own.
- Cleaning procedures will be modified (behind the scenes). We will encourage the procedure of handwashing and use of hand sanitizer, which will be available.
- More guidelines will be available as we move closer to meeting again in the building.

Again, let me reiterate that this is a work in progress. These procedures are new to us, as well as to all churches who are dealing with the changes brought on by this pandemic. Nothing is “set in stone”; we will see what does and doesn’t work and will continue to refine our practices in ways that best serve and protect our church family.

Again, we rejoice in the prospect of returning to worship together in our precious historic building. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns. And look for more information to follow!

Blessings, Rev. Sue