

To: The Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield

From: The COVID Task Force

Date: August 27, 2020

Re: Facility Use – Status Report

Dear friends,

Shortly after the outbreak of COVID-19, Session appointed a task force to monitor, plan, and implement the church's response.

The immediate action was to close the building to all persons and activities, including Worship Services and Sunday School, Support and Fellowship Groups, and Staff. Concurrent with the lifting of restrictions by the Governor and State Health Agencies, FPCH has recently allowed limited access to its facilities. The following is a listing of those authorized uses:

1. Pastoral, Music, and Administrative Staff have been given access to their offices. Specifically, Nikki and Doug have been in the building regularly since mid-summer and the Music and Administrative Staffs have used their offices on an "as-needed" basis.
2. As seen during the last few Sunday Morning Streaming Services, the Sanctuary walls are being repaired and painted. Workers have had access during the week and should have it completed by mid-September.
3. The Music Library is also being completely renovated and that is also on track to be completed in early fall.
4. The Preschool has submitted a hybrid, partial opening plan that has been approved. In short, a typical week consists of three components: one-hour supervised and instructional play outside on the playground, one-hour of streaming educational content, a packet of materials for at-home education and entertainment. In the case of inclement weather, the outdoor playtime will be canceled. No activities will be held indoors- except for bathroom access. Two staff members will have access to the office. This is a drastically reduced curriculum that also reduces their footprint- but has caused reduced enrollment and fees compared to a typical year. We are committed to cooperate (physically and financially) with the Pre School through these difficult times. Opening date for this year is September 14th.

Moving forward, our objective is to develop access plans for the following as autumn approaches:

1. To bring back the 12-Step and all other Support Groups which traditionally have relied on the church to house their meetings. The decision has been made to restrict these groups to Fellowship Hall and the associated restrooms so that cleaning and sanitizing is limited to those areas. All CDC and Camden County Health Department guidelines are being strictly followed (this pertains to the Preschool as well). As of this report, an opening date has not been set, but we expect that to be confirmed within the next few weeks.

2. To create a flexible, but safe plan to address all the needs of the IHOC program, which includes allowing individuals access to the building for interviews and assessments. This is currently being detailed with Ed Hess and should be confirmed shortly as well. No access date has been determined.

3. To create a safe access plan for smaller music groups (still guideline compliant) to not only rehearse as needed, but also participate in Sunday Worship. Guidelines are being detailed between Peter and the Committee. *Note: Although initially not appointed by Session, it was determined by the Chair that Peter should be a full member of the Committee and have been invited as such.*

Of course, we could not provide this update without addressing your most pressing concern: when the facility be accessible for worship:

It was determined by the Worship and Music Committee, prior to the creation of this Task Force, that FPCH would not gather for worship until it was safe for *all* persons to do so. New Jersey is currently in Stage 2 of opening and in-person Corporate Worship (as per the W&MC) will not take place until we are firmly into Stage 3. Even at that time, there will be restrictions concerning singing, hymnal and Bible use, and personal contact. Additionally, there will be guidelines concerning social distancing, egress routes, and personal protective equipment. Any proposed opening plan must also be approved by West Jersey Presbytery. Unfortunately, the Task Force does not see any reason to contradict those original recommendations and therefore, do not expect us to worship together, even in this restricted form, for the foreseeable future.

Lastly, please be aware that we are currently receiving bids from multiple cleaning contractors for daily/weekly/monthly sanitizing and disinfecting of the areas of the building that have been designated for limited use.

Be assured that we are taking our mandate seriously and are very much aware of the desire (yours and ours) to be together in church as soon as it is safe for all persons. We are currently meeting twice a month and will continue that pace until we achieve that goal.

Thank you for your continued patience, prayers, and understanding.

The COVID Task Force

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