



## Greetings and Introduction to the First Presbyterian Church

### Reopening Plan for Worship

Hello First Presbyterian Church!! We are excited to be reopening on September 6, 2020 for Live Worship in our sanctuary. This will be in addition to our now normal “Live Streaming” Worship Service on our website ([www.firstpresjamestown.com](http://www.firstpresjamestown.com)).

We have prepared our church sanctuary for you and will continue to maintain the church to provide a safe, clean, and “non-touch” environment for all who want to come and worship live with us following the CDC and NYS guidelines.

In addition to our enhanced sanctuary cleaning, we will perform a health screening with everyone before entry into the sanctuary, including a non-touch temperature check. The sanctuary seating plan ensures that we maintain the minimum social distancing guideline of six feet in all directions. Family units may sit together.

Masks must be worn (over mouth and nose) while you are in the church building. We will enter the church on Sunday morning using only the Sixth Street “accessible” entrance only.

- There will be NO access to the church office area, restrooms, or cloak room in the hall at this time. Restrooms in the library will be available.
- It will take a little longer to enter the sanctuary for worship, so please arrive a little early. Pastor Bob will start worship at the usual time (10:30 am)
- The Sixth street entrance will be open 45 minutes prior to worship (9:45 am)
- The Sixth street entrance will be closed at 10:40 am.
- We are continuing the Live Streaming Worship services through our website each week. If you are concerned about joining us for live worship, please take advantage of joining us virtually by live stream or the archived program. Attendance will not be taken.
- If you have pre-existing conditions and are over the age of 65, we recommend that you please stay home and worship with us virtually. We treasure you and your health.
- If you are feeling ill, *please* stay home and worship with us virtually. Get well soon!! Let us know if you need anything by calling the church office.
- Stairs from the Cloister to the church offices will be closed off to traffic
- The basement area will be closed off.
- Sunday School will not be held in person at this time. We are planning an alternative for our children.
- Child-care will not be offered at this time.

**We are sorry for any inconveniences!**

**We are working to maintain a clean and safe church environment while minimizing the cleaning workload during this challenging time.**

# REOPENING PROCESS

## As You Prepare to Enter the Sanctuary

- Enter only from the Sixth Street accessible entrance.
- Please always respect each other's 6 feet minimum of social distancing while waiting to enter and while in the sanctuary.
- It will be difficult to not to shake hands and hug, etc. during such a long time away, so please work on ways to greet each other from a distance.

## Entering the Church for Worship

There are several procedures that need to be followed to be admitted to the sanctuary on Sunday morning. These measures will be taken to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus while at the same time reducing the weekly cleaning necessary to prepare the church for the next week's Worship service.

- Please be patient with us as we begin "live Worship" in this new way.
- The church entrance on Sixth Street will be open 45 minutes (9:45 am) before Worship begins.
- Please arrive to Worship early as our new procedures will take time and Worship will start ON TIME at 10:30 am.
- Social Distance: Please maintain the minimum social distance of 6 feet while entering and leaving the church.
- Masks: Masks will be worn while entering, during Worship and when leaving.
  - If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you.
  - Masks will be worn over the nose *and* mouth
- Health check: upon entering the Sixth Street entrance, you will be asked your name, address, and phone/email if we don't already have this in our roster. Your temperature will be taken by a "greeter" and you will be asked the following questions about your health.
  - In the past 24 hours have you felt feverish, and/or experienced a dry cough, shortness of breath, flu-like symptoms, loss of smell or taste?
  - In the past 14 days have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case?
  - In the past 14 days, have you traveled domestically or internationally?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may not be allowed to enter the sanctuary.

Hand Sanitizer: a station is available at the Sixth Street entrance. We encourage usage upon entrance to the church.

Seating Process: After your health check, you will proceed through the Cloister to the Sanctuary. A greeter will meet you at the Narthex doors and seat you in a pew based on the number of people in your family group. This is similar to the way you are seated in a restaurant.

- Family members living together in the same house can sit together
- We will be seating the congregation in the sanctuary from front to back
- We will be releasing the congregation from the sanctuary when Worship is finished from back to front by the ushers to ensure social distancing.

Please be understanding if you cannot sit in your regular pew during this time.

Sanctuary seating has been carefully set up to assure that everyone is seated the minimum of 6 feet from each other per the social distance guideline.

Please sit only in the pew to which you are assigned during check in (pews without cushions are to remain empty).

Ushers and greeters will help direct you!

### **During Worship**

To minimize touch points within the sanctuary, we have made the following modifications:

- Bibles, hymnals, and all printed material normally found in the pews have been removed temporarily.
- Children's toys and activity bags and boards will not be available, *however*, feel free to bring activities for your children from home.
- Pew cushions in some pews have been removed to designate pews not to be used.

### **Communion**

On Communion Sundays, the communion elements will be prepackaged. The wafer will be just inside the top layer with the juice below that in the cup. Communion packs will be distributed by the ushers prior to the seating of the congregation. Please leave your communion pack in the wooden cup holders on the seat in front of you.

### **Offering**

Offering may be placed in the offering plate as you enter or as you leave the sanctuary. You may also mail your offering to the church office at 509 Prendergast Street, Jamestown, NY 14701.

### **Leaving the Sanctuary**

After worship, Pastor Hagel will dismiss the congregation as usual. Please stay in your pew until released by an usher. This is like many wedding services. The congregation will be released from the "BACK to FRONT" to help assure social distancing while leaving the sanctuary. There will be hand sanitizer stations available as you leave. Exit the building by the Prendergast Ave. doors or the handicap doors in the Cloister.

### **Restrooms**

The Cloister restrooms will be the *only* restrooms that will be open to the public. These restrooms are handicap accessible. Please wash your hands following the CDC guidelines of 20 seconds minimum handwashing time. (two times through the song happy birthday). Dispose of towels and wipes in the garbage. DO NOT FLUSH these items down the toilet!!