

## **Stage One: Reopening the church for gathered worship.**

In order to make our worship gatherings as safe as possible and to help everyone feel cared for and respected, we have developed the following guidelines for gathered worship. The responsibility for keeping at least six feet between persons lies with each individual.

It is always difficult to have requirements in a volunteer organization. We can, however, name the norms for our gatherings. Out of mutual respect for one another, we can ask everyone to abide by these health and safety guidelines, and are empowered to thoughtfully request those who cannot honor the practices in place to return when they are able to do so.

### **Order for Gathered Worship**

**When?** June 7<sup>th</sup>?

**Where?** Sanctuary, if more than 25 are present we will ask the overflow to sit in Westminister hall?

#### **Who?**

1. Virtual services will continue. If you feel sick, stay home!  
If you are at higher risk -- due to age or underlying health concerns --we encourage you to stay home.

#### **How?**

1. Masks or face shields are required for everyone. It is possible for someone who shows no symptoms to be a carrier for the virus. So for the sake of others, please wear a mask or face shield! Congregation members are encouraged to bring their own masks, we will also provide masks for those who forget. Children too young to keep masks on, will be allowed to sit in Westminster Hall during worship.
2. Social distancing is to be practiced at all times. Those who live in the same household may sit together. Otherwise please leave at least one pew between groups and at least 6 feet of distance.
3. The governor's guidelines call for a limit of 25 people gathered together at this time. If more than 25 people come to worship, the overflow will be asked to sit in Westminster Hall.
4. Hand sanitizer to be used upon entering the sanctuary and when you leave. Sanitizer will be available at the doors or you may bring your own.
5. No physical greetings. No handshakes or hugs.
6. We will deep clean all parts of the building between uses paying special attention to Door knobs, Light switches, Pews, Bathrooms, and Railings.
7. We will continue to use paper bulletins for those who come. The bulletins will also be available on the church website ([www.clarksburgfpc.org](http://www.clarksburgfpc.org)) so that you can download and print your own bulletin if you wish. We will continue to print the hymns in the bulletin so that hymn books will not need to be handled. Also we will print an attendance sheet in the bulletin for people to sign and drop in the collection plate as they are leaving, so that the fellowship

- pads will not need to be handled or passed.
8. We will have congregational singing, solos and duets with masks or face shields being worn during the singing.
  9. Communion will be served on the appropriate Sundays in this way:  
Those present will come down center aisle while maintaining social distance. The elements will be placed far enough apart on the table so that you will be able to pick them up without touching the other elements.
  10. So that they will not need to be handled. The offering plates will be placed by the doors. Those who come will be encouraged to drop their offering into the plate either when they come in or leave.
  11. At Exchange of Peace, all will stay in place. No physical contact. Nods, waves, etc., are acceptable.
  12. At the end of service, we will dismiss by pews and domiciled units. We will start with those nearest the door so that people will not have to crowd past each other to leave. Those who want to talk with others are encouraged to do that outside, again so that people will not have to crowd past you. Inside the church building there will be no congregating, no coffee hour or other social gatherings.
  13. Attendance will be taken to provide social tracking if necessary. So please fill out the attendance sheet in your bulletin and drop it in the offering plate as you leave.
  14. In good weather, we will leave the church doors standing open so that people do not have to touch the door handle.

*As conditions change, we will modify these guidelines in appropriate ways.*

*Thank you for your help and understanding in following these guidelines so that everyone can feel safe and relaxed*