



Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

367 Route 9, Waretown, NJ

Phone 609-698-8561 | www.SaintStephensWaretown.org

Re-Opening Announcement & Information



In early July, the Diocese established guidelines and requirements which churches must adhere to prior to re-opening. We were required to answer many questions and submit our plan to the Diocese for approval. The Vestry, working with a congregational task force, put together a comprehensive plan to reopen in-person worship and submitted that plan to the Diocese. We are pleased to inform you that our plan was approved and we have been given permission to resume in-person worship services which abide by the protocols in the Plan. We are opening for in-person Evening Prayer on Saturday, August 1st and Holy Eucharist on Sunday, August 2nd. Should you decide it is your time to return to in-person worship, we want to make you aware of some information you will need to be aware of.

Worship will look, feel and sound somewhat different until such time as we emerge from this pandemic. Our goal is to provide as safe an environment as we can. Therefore, you will discover some restrictions. We have posted the entire plan on the Church Planning Page on our website and we encourage you to take a look at it. <https://saintstephenswaretown.org/church-planning>. Copies are available for you to pick up in the church office. The church office is now open Monday—Friday from 9:00AM until Noon.

At first we will be holding only two weekly services:

Sunday at 9:30AM, Holy Eucharist, in the church.

- Pre-Register. Seating is pre-assigned. Pews are numbered and so are pew seats. This will allow us to seat family units together and permit for a greater number of people safely distanced in the church. Registration is by phone to the church office and you will be given a pew and seat number at that time. Should the church reach the maximum capacity of 51 people, you will be able to be seated in the parish hall and participate via big screen live stream TV and you may receive communion. Church will open for entry no later than 9:00. *Please arrive early.*

Saturday at 5:00PM, Outdoor Evening Prayer (weather permitting).

- Location: In either the Garden Chapel or the rear parking lot depending on participation.
- Pre-Register. Seating is also pre-assigned. Should we have greater than 12 people pre-registered the service will shift to the parking lot at the rear of the parish hall.

Live Stream

- The 9:30 service will be streamed to our church YouTube channel. You may join the service live or watch the recording at a later time.

Regarding Pre-Registration. We are required to collect the names and contact information of everyone. The reason for this is to provide a means of contact tracing in order to inform everyone if we learn of someone in attendance becoming infected with or exposed to COVID-19. Pre-registration will allow us to collect contact information ahead of time and will also facilitate quicker entrance to the church since those pre-registered will already have seating assignments. We have a chart which permits us to assign seats which adhere to distancing requirements. Seat assignments will be given to you when you register. It would be too difficult to do this upon entry to the church. If we did not offer pre-registration, our capacity in the church could be as few as 25 people.

Church Entry & Exit. To allow for one-way traffic, everyone will have to enter the church from the double red doors. If during the service you need to leave, leave by the single door that leads to the parish hall.

Cleaning & Disinfecting. Guidelines tell us that the church only requires routine cleaning if following a service it is not used for seven days. Therefore, the Vestry has decided to only use the church once every seven days. However, all hard-surfaces will be wiped down following the service. We have obtained a disinfectant spraying machine which will be used in the event the church needs to be used within that seven day period. The bathrooms will be disinfected prior to the opening of the church. Instructions for bathroom sanitation will be posted and wipes provided.

Regarding Live Stream to the Parish Hall and to YouTube. We are in the process of procuring the equipment we need to do this. It may not be available for the August 2nd service, or the quality for that service may be a little primitive.

Communion.

- ◇ Priest sanitize his/her hands before setting the altar.
- ◇ Priest sets the table for communion unassisted and wearing a mask/face cover.
- ◇ Priest re-sanitize their hands after the table is set.
- ◇ Priest says Eucharist Prayer with the lid on bread box/ciborium.
- ◇ When Eucharistic Prayer is complete, the priest removes/lowers mask and consumes the priest's host and the wine in chalice.
- ◇ Thereafter priest repositions mask and removes chasuble prior to distributing communion and again sanitizes hands.
- ◇ Priest takes lid off bread box/ciborium and moves to center of communion rail.
- ◇ People come forward to receive communion maintaining proper social distancing.
- ◇ People stop at touchless sanitizing station positioned on approach 6 feet from the communion rail and sanitize their hands prior to approaching the priest.
- ◇ Upon arrival at communion rail, people lower their mask, hold out their hands, and the priest drops the wafer into their hands. Should the priest make contact with the person, they shall immediately re-sanitize their hands,
- ◇ There is no kneeling at the communion rail. People immediately consume the wafer, recover their face and return to their seating via the side aisles.
- ◇ Should someone ask for a blessing in lieu of communion, the priest should offer the usual blessing without touching the person.
- ◇ No one is required to receive communion. The prayer for Spiritual Communion will be included in the Order of Service Bulletin for anyone who does not wish to come forward.

Safety Instructions - *This is how we love one another.*

Seating will be pre-assigned by pew number and seat. Each pew has a number and pew seating is identified by a letter. We are doing this in order to better insure distancing is proper and to greatly reduce confusion along with the time it takes to get everyone seated in the church. Those who have pre-registered will enter the church first. Those who have not pre-register will be seated in the church on a space permitted basis.

Please...

- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from all others except for family members with whom you share the same domicile. Markers are on the floor to assist you.
- Only in your assigned seat.
- Stay in the middle of the center aisles and close to the walls on the side aisles.
- Avoid gathering in groups on church grounds.
- Where face covering at all times.
- Refrain from all singing.
- Remain at your seat location for the giving of Peace.
- If receiving communion, please sanitize your hands at the hand sanitizing station near the communion rail.
- There are Alms baskets at the exit door from you to leave your offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of our church.
- Take your Order of Worship Bulletin home with you or dispose of it in the receptacle at the exit of the church. Prayer Books, Hymnals and Pew Cards have been removed.
- At the conclusion of our service, please do not leave until your pew number is called and use the door at the rear corner of the church. Please do not exit the church from the door you came in.
- Should you discover or believe you may have been infected with or exposed to COVID-19, please immediately call the parish office at 609-698-8561 and inform us so that we can notify others of their possible exposure. *This is how we love one another.***

July Parish Calendar & Events

WORSHIP

Holy Eucharist | Sunday at 9:30 AM

Evening Prayed | Saturday at 5:00 PM

Check our [website](#) for online opportunities

Wardens : [Jim Joeriman](#), [Pattie Meyer](#)

Vestry Members: [Glenys Baulderstone](#), [Peggy Beck](#), [Tom Don](#), [Debbie Kirk](#), [Jo Ann Joeriman](#), [Bob Gray](#), [John Marcy](#), [Bob Rawley](#), [Rett Rich](#)

Treasurer: [Ron Turner](#)

Parish Administrator: [Pat Terentz](#)

Website: www.SaintStephensWaretown.org

Facebook: [SaintStephensWaretown](#)

MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP

Thrift Shop Open

Monday through Saturday Closed during pandemic
To Volunteer Contact [Beth MacKenzie](#), [Barbara Heilich](#) or [Gloria Davis](#).

ECW

For Information Contact [Pat Spielman](#)

Bible Study

For Information Contact [Marueen O'Keefe](#)

Sunday Seminar—Bible Discussion

Every Saturday starting at 11:00AM on Zoom.
Facilitated by [Debbie Kirk](#) & Marcel Tabone

Choir Director & Organist

[Carlos Staszkeski](#)

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367 Route 9

Waretown, NJ 08758

Welcoming Everyone, Connecting with God, Building Community, Transforming Lives