



Fairhill Manor Christian Church

Church Family,

These past few months apart have been very difficult and ever-changing. Through these uncertain times, we have been able to lean on the God that is everlasting and unchanging. Coming together as a congregation virtually has brought comfort and joy to us all. While we are all anxious to be together in our Sanctuary again, it has taken much consideration and careful planning to ensure we can be together safely. While plans are being made to reopen the church, we understand that many members of our church family may be uncomfortable returning to worship in person at this time. We ask that you prayerfully consider the time that is safest for your return to worship in person. If you have an underlying medical condition, if you are a “high-risk” individual, or if you may have been exposed to COVID-19, we ask that you consider an alternative method of worship until it is best for you to return. We appreciate the patience of our congregation as we know that this time has not been easy. Below we have listed questions that many of you may have as we plan to worship in our Sanctuary once again.

Q: When will the church reopen for worship?

A: In keeping with social distancing guidelines in our Sanctuary, only about 50 people will be able to worship in person each week. Those with last names beginning with A-F and G-L are welcome to worship in person on Sunday, July 12th at 9:30 am (see below about time change) and those with last names beginning with M-R and S-Z are welcome to worship in person on Sunday, July 19th at 9:30 am. The rotation will be available in the Manor Minutes several weeks ahead of time. We will be able to worship with everyone else in our congregation over the span of 6 weeks.

Q: When the church reopens, will worship be the same as it was prior to closing?

A: Many of the elements of worship that are familiar to us will be the same. Our pastors and congregation will gather together in a loving faith community. We will follow a similar order of worship, and we will, once again, be present in the Sanctuary that offers us a holy and comforting space to gather in worship. We will listen to music and hear scripture that provides comfort and joy during these difficult times. We will bring an offering to be blessed and share communion together.

Q: What changes to our worship service can I expect?

A: While some elements will remain the same, you can expect many changes to our service. Face coverings will need to be worn as you enter and exit the church and during any time that social distancing may be difficult. There will be no singing, although there will be music to listen to during worship. We will have no shared materials such as pew Bibles, hymnals, or bulletins. We will not pass the communion or offering plates. Any belongings brought with you to the service, like an umbrella or coat, will need to be kept with you at all times. In order to allow for increased ventilation, we will use a combination of ceiling fans, air conditioning and open windows in the Sanctuary. To ensure our comfort, we will begin worship at 9:30 am. The doors will open at 9 am.

Q: How will I enter and exit the church building?

A: We will follow the attached protocol for entrance and exit of the church. There will be Guides to assist you in this process.

Q: What if I need to use the restroom while in the church building?

A: We ask that you use the restroom prior to coming to the church. However, the restrooms will be available, if necessary. The attached protocol details the process you can follow if you need to use the restroom during worship.

Q: What if I am not comfortable gathering in a large group at this time?

A: We understand that each member and family will need to make the decision to attend worship based on their personal circumstances. To honor each one's choice, we will still offer alternative methods of worship so that all members can participate in the manner that is best for them. You can still join a virtual Zoom worship service if you are not comfortable joining the service in person. Manor Minutes will still be sent by email or mail and will be available on the church's website. Audio clips of worship pieces will still be available on the website.

Q: What if someone who has been present in worship tests positive for COVID-19?

A: An emergency plan is in place if someone who has attended worship becomes ill. Our protocol (see attached) includes registering those attending worship so that we can alert them if they have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. We will also suspend in-person worship services and church activities for a time to ensure that the building can be properly disinfected before we gather again.

Q: Who do I contact if I still have questions or concerns about the church reopening?

A: You can contact the church office at 724-225-8610 and you will be directed to the person who can best answer your specific question or concern.

Much like the careful consideration that was taken in choosing to close the church, much planning and effort was put into the plan to reopen. As more information is available, it will be communicated to you as soon as possible. The task groups working on elements of worship appreciate your patience and feedback given through the surveys we have completed and will continue to use that information to ensure that our services are both safe and meaningful to our church family.

If you are not receiving communications from the church by email, please contact the church office at 724-225-8610.

Take care and God Bless,

Pastor's Cabinet