

Open the Gates Task Force Covenant Presbyterian Church Stage 1 Recommendations

The Open the Gates Task Force was created by the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church on May 5, 2020 to make recommendations about how to reopen the property to in-person gatherings in a safe and responsible way. These recommendations represent stage 1 of the plan to return to the property. We believe that we are called by God to be stewards of our property and our community, and that our stewardship is an act of worship. Through these recommendations, we aim to show the love of God within our community while maintaining our core values of hospitality, compassion, and inclusiveness.

SANCTUARY WORSHIP

Beginning June 14, worship will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. only (not at 8:30 a.m.) and live streamed to the congregation through Vimeo. A recording of this live stream will be emailed to the congregation later in the day. A picture of the congregation will be taken at every service for the purposes of contact tracing.

1. June 14: begin live-streaming
 - Only Pastors and support volunteers (liturgist and AV Team member(s)) will be present.
 - On June 14, there will be NO congregation members present.

2. June 21, 28, July 5, & 12: congregation begins attending (limited seating)
 - Only 50 present each Sunday: 10 support volunteers (liturgist, AV Team member(s), and ushers) and 40 members
 - Priority will be given to first-time stage 1 attendees, who make reservations on Mondays via phone or email to Judy Strogonoff. Only 40 reservations will be made. Beyond 40 people, first-time stage 1 attendees will roll over to the next Sunday.
 - People who have already attended a stage 1 service should make reservations on Tuesdays. These reservations do not roll over to the next week.
 - Everyone must wear a mask (we will provide a mask for those who don't have one). Masks may only be removed by speakers at the pulpit or lectern.
 - Bulletins will be placed in pews (on Fridays) so that people know where to sit.
 - Ushers will seat and then dismiss by row. Usher teams may be reduced as they are only responsible for seating, general safety and security, and putting the offering into the safe.
 - Offering will be collected in boxes near the exits.
 - No choir or congregational singing.
 - No other in-person gatherings (including Sunday School), no coffee bar, no name tags, no nursery, no children's church, and no time with children. Children's worship bags will be removed from sanctuary.
 - Greeters will be in the Aumond Road parking lot to welcome people from afar and remind them about masks. Signage will also remind people about masks and social distancing.
 - Ushers will prop open exterior doors near the Aumond Road lot and interior doors to the sanctuary so that people do not need to touch handles. Exterior doors should be closed at the start of worship and reopened at the end of worship.
 - Worshippers should park in the Aumond Road lot and enter the building through doors that are already propped open.
 - Worshippers are asked to not congregate before or after worship, and to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. Please do not greet anyone in any way that requires physical touch.

3. From June 21 through July 12, the sanctuary will be open for silent prayer from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. No reservations are necessary, but a mask must be worn at all times. The organist may provide music for reflection during a portion of this time and will be responsible for locking up. The organist will record attendance for the purposes of contact tracing.

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will reopen on June 15, 2020. The Church Secretary and Finance Secretary will resume their normal office hours. Other staff members will work from home or from a different part of the building when possible. Walk-in visitors will not be permitted. All visitors should make an appointment before coming to the office. EVERYONE who enters the office is required to wear a mask. Employees have the option to remove masks when they are at their own desks and no one else is in the room. All visitors to the office will be recorded by the Church Secretary for the purposes of contact tracing.

OTHER GATHERINGS

While groups are still encouraged to meet via Zoom, gatherings of 10 or less people are permitted in the building beginning June 15. All gatherings must be scheduled with the church office. Masks are required. Every group is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the space after using it.

- Gatherings of 10 or less people may be held in the Fellowship Hall.
- Gatherings of 6 or less people may be held in other rooms.
- Groups are welcome to gather outside at any time.
- Attendance for all gatherings should be maintained by the group leader for 30 days following the event for the purposes of contact tracing.

GENERAL

- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and masks will always be available at the main entrances to the building.
- Everyone who enters the building should maintain social distance of six feet.
- Everyone who enters the building should wear a mask when in the presence of others.
- Anyone who feels sick in any way should not come to the property and should seek medical guidance.
- Ring doorbell cameras on two main entrances will record entry to building to assist with contact tracing.

COMMUNICATION

This plan will be published in the June edition of the *Chimes*, posted at the main entrances to the building, uploaded to the website, and linked in the Friday emails. A phone tree message will alert people to look for the details of the plan in the *Chimes*.

Approved by the Session on 6/2/2020. Subsequent stages of this plan will be determined at a later date. In the event of new CDC recommendations or local health developments, these provisions may change, and such changes will be communicated to the congregation.