

July 7, 2020

Dear Friends,

Trinity will begin to gather again for in-person worship in the sanctuary on **July 19** while we continue to gather online and over the call-in telephone line. For the safety of our community, we will observe strict physical distancing and expect that all will wear face masks. Under physical distancing guidelines, our sanctuary will hold approximately 75-80 people depending on the size of family groups that are able to sit close together.

While we are doing our best to enact procedures for safety, we also recognize that any gathering of people in these times carries risk of exposure to the Covid19 virus. We ask that you participate in worship from home if you are among those who are most vulnerable to the virus or those who have increased exposure to the virus due to work, travel or other large gatherings of people. Let us love another enough to keep each other safe.

Because of the ongoing changes in guidelines and restrictions for gatherings in PA, please note that these plans may be edited or changed at any time. Please watch the regular Tuesday and Friday emails from trinityperkasie@verizon.net for up to date information. In the event of last-minute changes before a Sunday worship gathering, we will enact our regular "Snow Emergency" procedure for communication. We will put updated information on the general voicemail at the church, post on our website's front page and post on Trinity's Facebook page.

Important information:

- Worship in the sanctuary begins July 19 at 9:30 a.m. We will continue online livestreaming and call-in worship offerings at the same time. Please note that, if you are in the sanctuary, you may be on camera.
- Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Which door to enter through will be announced via email prior to 7/19.
- Worshipers will experience a brief health screening before entering the church building. A no-touch thermometer may be used and you will be asked to respond to a brief questionnaire about symptoms, exposure and if you are waiting for Covid19 test results. If any answer is "yes," you will be asked to join online worship at home rather than gather in the church. The names of those gathering for worship will be recorded for the sake of contact tracing, if necessary.
- Worshipers are asked to enter the Sanctuary through the Narthex upon entry into the building. Please do not go into the balcony or in other areas of the church beyond the Sanctuary so that we can focus our sanitizing efforts after worship.
- There will be no nursery care at this time because of the extra cleaning that would be required. If you bring your children to worship, please assist your children with social distancing.
- Masks will be required; if you need one, you will be provided with one.
- Social distancing will be practiced.
- All must sanitize hands upon entry.
- Worshipers will be ushered to a seat in the Sanctuary according to social distancing guidelines and restrictions already mapped out in the space. Please be flexible about seating. No one will be choosing their own seats.
- All-inclusive bulletins will be provided. Pews will be cleared of books, paper and writing utensils.

- There will be no congregational singing or spoken responses. Leaders will speak and sing on behalf of the whole congregation and for the sake of the concurrent online gathering.
- Worshipers will be ushered out after worship through the front sanctuary door to the alley behind the church. Please be patient with this process. Please do not linger indoors for conversation.
- Please be prepared for some awkward moments in worship as we are worshiping both in-person and online at the same time. There are some things we need to do and announce in order to care for the online and telephone community.
- Offering plates will be set out in the Narthex for a no-touch offering collection. As much as possible, please continue to send in offerings via mail or electronic giving.
- We will hold off on celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first few weeks as we learn how to best be together safely. Stay tuned. We do not yet know how we will distribute the meal safely while also celebrating the meal online.
- Bathrooms will be available. Signs on the doors to the restroom will be able to indicate “occupied” or “open” to encourage only 1 person at a time in the restroom because physical distancing is not possible in such an enclosed space. The handicapped accessible bathroom by the church office is available for use, as needed.
- We will make decisions as needed to close or sanitize if someone in the community tests positive for Covid19 after attending worship.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jenn

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Phelps, Pastor

Kathy Guelzow

Kathy Guelzow, Church Council President