

## **First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NJ – Re-entry Information**

Do NOT attend in person if:

- You are uncomfortable or at risk. We encourage you to join us virtually. The weekly worship service can be found on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) on our church channel at "fpcnewtonnj."
- You know your temperature is above 99.4°, please stay home and watch the service on YouTube.
- You are not vaccinated and have traveled outside of the tri-state region (NJ, NY, CT) within the last 2 weeks, come in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or have any concerns over potential exposure.

If you plan on attending in person, keep in mind that, even though vaccination rates are increasing and you yourself may be vaccinated:

- Everyone over the age of 2 **will be required to wear a mask** while inside the church. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you as you enter the building.
- There will be only **one** service in the Main Sanctuary on Sunday mornings at **9:30 am**.
- There will be **one entrance** door: **The WHITE DOOR in the back alley that leads directly into the Fellowship Hall**. It is handicapped accessible. No one will be allowed to exit through this door.
- There will be **two exit** doors: **The HANDICAPPED ACCESS DOOR in the back alley nearest to Church Street and the Main Sanctuary entrance door on High Street.** No one will be allowed to enter through these doors.
- Directional arrows and other signs will be in place to help remember the flow of traffic.
- Everyone will be required to **provide a health form each time** they enter the building. The health form is available for download from our website and hard copies are also available at the door. This form will also serve as our contact information form, should contact tracing be necessary.
- Everyone will have their temperature taken upon arrival using an electronic, non-contact thermometer. If your temperature is above 99.4°, you will unfortunately not be able to join the in-person service that day.
- Social distancing is still required indoors and encouraged outdoors. A seating chart will be employed to maintain proper distance between participants. (However, families and couples will be allowed to sit together.)
- There will be **no** in-person Sunday School or nursery services.
- A limited number of paper bulletins (or other print material) will be provided. **Please print your bulletin** from the weekly email update or website or download it to an electronic device before coming.
- Check the church website (<http://fpcnewtonnj.weebly.com>) and/or phone answering machine (973)383-4420 for up-to-the-minute information.
- **Those using the bathrooms will be responsible for wiping down all "touch points"** with the Clorox wipes (or other disinfecting wipes which will be provided). The

bathrooms and building will be thoroughly cleaned each week.

### What to know about the in-person worship service:

- There are **50 “seats” on the main floor** of the sanctuary. These may accommodate individuals, couples, or families, to a maximum of **200** persons on the main floor. The balcony shall be reserved for overflow seating on an as needed basis. The balcony can accommodate **30** additional “seats.” (This seating limit will be subject to change, depending on the latest CDC and NJ State guidelines.)
- Please remember to practice safe hygiene procedures such as regular **hand washing** and sanitizing before attending church. Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations for easy access while you are present in church. You will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after attending service.
- Please refrain from hand shaking or hugging or any other activity that would compromise the physical distancing that must be maintained at this time.
- **Communion will be celebrated on our usual day (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday). All participants will be provided with individual communion elements (bread and juice).**
- **Baptisms may occur.**
- **Children’s “Table Time” will not be a part of the service.** Individual family boxes will be provided for families to do activities in their pew. There will be one box per family and boxes and supplies will not be shared between families. Each family will sanitize their box and leave it in the pew at the end of the service.
- **Congregational singing**, unison prayers and other verbal responses **will** be allowed, provided everyone is masked.
- **Offering plates** will be available at the doors to receive your offering. Everyone is encouraged to make use of the online giving option available on our website.
- Please wait to socialize until you are outside of the building.
- **Punch on the Patio will** resume, starting May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sign-up sheets and new safety guidelines will be available soon.

### What to know about other church activities:

- Youth activities, Sunday School, Wired Word, Jubilee Women, and other programs will continue in a virtual format. Limited in person gatherings will be permitted. All will follow the guidelines above.
- **Weddings**, Memorial Services and other worship services will be permitted, providing they adhere to the worship guidelines (above). The maximum attendance will follow the guidelines above.

### Information for Other Church Building Users (e.g. Manna House, Bread of Life, Literacy Council, Decide, Boy Scouts, Daisy and Girl Scouts):

- Groups wanting to use the building will have to **present their own individual re-entry plan to the session for its approval**. Each group’s plan will have to conform to the church’s re-entry plan.