



Church of the Apostles, United Church of Christ

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Subject: Church of the Apostles COVID-19 Reopening Policy

1. We look forward joyfully to the resumption of onsite, in-church worship when Franklin County moves from the Red phase to the Yellow phase of the Governor's reopening plan. Our policy establishes the framework we will use to follow the guidelines for safe gatherings associated with the Yellow phase. In all matters related to the resumption of onsite, in-church worship, the safety and health of our members and visitors will be our primary concern.
2. The process for resuming onsite, in-church worship is generally known as "reopening" the church. The process begins with this policy. From the policy specific procedures will be developed. The procedures may require a re-description of key roles by some worship participants, and training for those new roles may be required. Finally, a detailed communications plan will be developed and implemented so congregants know what to expect in the reopened church. The communications plan will include information sent to members ahead of reopening, signage visible upon entering the church, and information and instructions provided by the ushers, from the pulpit and scrolled on the monitors. If necessary, we will delay reopening until this process has been completed.
3. The church has a new cleaning contract that incorporates CDC disinfecting guidelines. Maintaining cleanliness standards is an important part of our reopening plan.
4. Although we look forward to gathering in worship again, we realize that attending worship in person may present too much of a risk for some of our members. Members who are ill and/or who have serious underlying health concerns should remain isolated. We will continue to provide "virtual church" for those members with computer capability and distribute our monthly newsletter by email and regular mail. The pastor and members of the church leadership will also telephone isolated members to keep in touch.
5. Members and visitors will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing guidelines at all times while in the church and on church property, including the parking lot.
6. "No touch" procedures for collecting the offering and distributing communion will be incorporated into the worship service. Other "no touch" or "low touch" procedures may be incorporated where appropriate.

Narda J. Druckenmiller
Pastor

Gilbert W. Hovermale
Consistory President