



Clinton Presbyterian Church

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June 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it”
1 Corinthians 12:27

I know that we long to gather once again in person as the body of Christ and in particular we are eager to be in our sanctuary once again for Sunday Morning Worship; it is central to our life together.

The question of when we should return to in-person Sunday Morning Worship has been a subject of prayer and discussion for your Session over these last few weeks. Reflection during this process has involved:

- Consideration of the feedback provided by over 40 CPC members in our recent email survey
- Guidance from Elizabeth Presbytery (as referenced in our June Newsletter. For more see: <http://elizabethpresbytery.org/covid-19-resources/>)
- Review of plans from other churches in our area
- Assessment of guidance and mandates from governmental authorities

After several weeks of prayer, careful reflection and thoughtful discussion, *Session has decided to delay our return to in-person Sunday Morning Worship until the early fall*. At that time, it is our hope that social distancing guidelines will have been relaxed enough to allow for a worship service which is safe, effective and inclusive of all the members of the body.

I realize that this decision will be met with mixed feelings. That said, abiding by the current guidelines for physical distancing, the capacity in our sanctuary is around 50 and the worship service would require masked worshippers and worship leaders and the elimination of singing, shared prayers and sacraments. Session believes that our congregation will find a return to Sunday Morning Worship most fulfilling when we can more safely resume the musical and liturgical practices which we cherish and can more freely welcome all. Until that time, our online services offer an option for worship which is safe, effective and inclusive. Even from our homes, this shared worship holds as central to our life together.

As we move forward, Session has put together a plan that illustrates the journey we will follow from our current state until the pandemic risk is behind us. This plan will allow us to fulfill congregational needs and ensure that we are prepared to create a safe environment for our members, staff, and visitors to our facility. It also provides for online access to worship and fellowship even after we are fully returned to in-person worship, a signal of our commitment to the full inclusion of all our members. Please take some time today to review the plan.

Within this plan you will note provision for smaller outdoor gatherings for worship and fellowship, followed later by safe indoor opportunities of the same nature. The first such offering “**Fellowship @ Five**” will launch on Sunday July 12. More details about this outdoor gathering will follow soon but mark your calendar now for Sundays at 5pm - I am looking forward to it!

We see this plan as a living document which is subject to change based on advice from Presbytery, and/or medical and government authorities. Session will continue to meet often in the weeks ahead and will keep you informed as the plan evolves. If you have any questions, please feel free reach out to myself or any of our Elders.

We know that whether gathered or scattered, we are the church, the body of Christ. And so we will keep faith with one another. We will carry one another's burdens. We will share in one another's joys. We will continue to creatively live out our calling to be the church in and for the world. And in the midst of uncertainty, we know and we will cling fast to the faithfulness of God who has called us together as One.

May God's Peace and Grace be with you today.

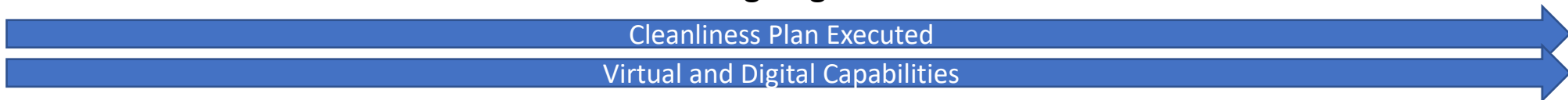
Rev. Tracey C. Henry

CPC Re-gathering Plan



	Stage 1 (Current)	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
WORSHIP (Music)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Worship Service Online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Worship Service Online Occasional Outdoor Church Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Worship Service Online Occasional Outdoor Church Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person service w/ Live-stream & Recording
PASTORAL CARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Support Mid-week Message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited in person care Mid-week Message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastoral judgement on in person visitation Resume weddings, funerals, and baptisms in church* Mid-week Message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume without restriction Mid-week Message
CHURCH STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote; in office as-needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited staff return w/ staggered schedule (visitors/members to schedule in person appointments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume normal staff schedule/office hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal staff schedule/office hours
MINISTRY TEAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume in person ministry team meetings with online option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person ministry team meetings with online options as needed
FELLOWSHIP & GROWTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Bible Study Weekly Zoom Check-ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small in-person outdoor gatherings Online Bible Study Weekly Zoom Check-ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hybrid model of online and in person for Bible Study and fellowship. Weekly Zoom Check-ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume all CPC activities in-person. (online options available)
MISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All mission engagement and experiences to model safe and healthy behavior Continue to partner with local organizations to meet community needs 			
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group Sunday School (online options) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume full in-person activities
PRESCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate per state guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate per state guidelines.
EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed to external groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting external groups outdoors on exception basis* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume Hosting External Groups* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External groups meet as scheduled

On-going activities



*Session approval

^ All plans in accordance with and subject to change based on local, state, and federal guidelines as well as Elizabeth Presbytery and PC USA.