

RE-OPENING PLAN

The church is re-opening! There will be some who think we should "flip the switch" back to the way things were in February, and there will be others who think we will be moving too fast and creating too much risk. We are hoping for a middle ground.

Here's how we came to our recommendations: first, we carefully studied and are following guidelines set forth by our governor and by the Standing Committee of our two dioceses. For our particular situation, our senior warden, Randy Evans, surveyed a random sample of the congregation. Then, a committee chaired by Jay Emmendorfer and Dennis McGeath, and consisting of Bruce Turner, Nancy Nicholson, Randy Evans, Tim Tippet, Frank Hawthorne, and Father Barrie met via Zoom, and has proposed this plan. It is cautious yet generous, careful but accommodating, within guidelines and yet moving ever steadily toward our goal: restoring things to normal.

We will continue with our current arrangement through July 5-alternating Morning Prayer with Canon Anne Hallmark and Spiritual Communion with Father Barrie Bates. Both of these will be streamed online at 10am. **Then, beginning July 12, we will experiment with this Sunday schedule:**

- **The Holy Eucharist, Rite I, in the church at 8am**
- **Spiritual Communion, Rite II, live-streamed from the chapel at 10am. These services will have special music by our own André Strydom and others**
- **Weather permitting, we plan an outdoor Mass at a later date (bring your own lawn chair)**

At 8, we are able to accommodate a maximum of 50 persons, seated in family groups or maintaining social distance. Everyone must wear a mask, and we will not physically touch, pass an offering plate, or sing. Bring a stadium cushion, if you wish (the pew cushions have been removed for safety). Communion will be offered to everyone in one kind (bread only). One parishioner will be selected at random to receive the wine on behalf of the entire assembly.

Everyone who physically comes to the church building- both Sundays and other days- will need to sign a log of attendance, so we can track contact in case of infection.

In sum, if you are uncomfortable with in-person worship, you can continue to view the 10am service online. This service will include soloists and special music as of July 12. If you would rather attend in person, please come at 8, wearing a mask and maintaining social distance. If you have symptoms that could mean COVID (fever, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a cough), or if you have been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive, or if you have recently arrived from downstate or farther away, then please stay home to help keep others safe.

Our committee will gather to assess our progress and recommend adjustments to this plan, seeing how we can work out the kinks, as well as whether and when we can loosen the restrictions. Your questions, comments, suggestions, and corrections are welcome. Please contact any member of the committee with your input.