



June 2020

Dear GPC Members and Friends,

GPC's Session met on Thursday, June 18 to consider recommendations for re-opening for worship after nearly three months of online-only worship. I am sharing the following guidelines with you on their behalf, and I'm grateful for their thoughtful deliberations and for acting on the recommendations of the Coronavirus Recovery and Re-Opening Task Force (CRRTF).

We are grateful to all the people who have been praying for and supporting the church during this difficult time of being physically apart from one another. As we have stated before, we have never "closed" as a church. We have continued to pray, worship, study the Bible, serve our community, care for one another, and be light in the world. We have been physically apart yet united by the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday, June 21, our worship service began live-streaming video on the Internet and the GPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GermantownPres/>) at 9:30 a.m. You may always watch the subsequent completed video after 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

GPC will resume in-person worship on **Sunday, June 28** with one service each Sunday **at 9:30 a.m.** through August 9. Here are some guidelines that we will follow as we gather:

- We will be able to welcome 50 persons into the sanctuary who have pre-registered through the GPC website (www.germantownpres.org and click the big blue box) or by calling the church office (901-754-5195). We know that pre-registering for church is unusual, but we need an understanding of how many people to expect. Plus, we need to be able to contact everyone for "contact-tracing" in the event that someone in attendance is later diagnosed. We will have some overflow rooms available if need be. Registration opens at noon the Sunday prior to worship and closes on the following Saturday noon or until capacity has been reached. You will only be able to register for worship one week at a time.
- Please do not attend if you feel unwell in any way, have a fever or cough, or if you or a family member is unwell or has adverse underlying health conditions. Please take your own temperature before coming to church and stay at home if you have a fever.
- Everyone is *strongly encouraged* to wear masks as a self-sacrificial way of loving your neighbor as yourself. There is a widely accepted consensus in the medical community that wearing masks vastly reduces the spread of COVID-19. Out of respect and deference for others, please wear a mask. We will have masks, as well as hand-sanitizer, available at the church entrances.
- We will enter the sanctuary through the Narthex (Arthur Road) doors in the rear of the sanctuary and depart in an orderly manner row by row as designated by the ushers.
- Family units will sit together in every other pew six feet away from other people/groups.
- We will not gather to socialize indoors, but we will gladly greet one another from a safe distance outside.
- We will use paper bulletins that will include all music and announcements.

- We will not pass offering plates but will invite everyone to give generously by placing their offering in the plates by the doors.
- We will not have nursery care available as it is impossible to ensure the children's safety.

We regret that many in our church family may choose not to return at this time because they are at-risk for a variety of reasons. We grieve that not everyone can resume in-person worship immediately. We remember with affection you who cannot attend right now, which is why you can watch a video livestream of the service via our website here: germantownpres.org/worship-on-sermon-net/ and on the GPC Facebook page here: facebook.com/GermantownPres/. Our worship service can be viewed live between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., or you may watch the replay any time after 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

In addition to Sunday services, GPC is open for group meetings as long as people remain distanced by six feet and wear masks to protect their neighbors. Each meeting space will be sanitized and cleaned after use. Please call the church office to reserve your meeting space.

May you know of God's strength and blessings as we continue to rely on His grace every day.

Grace, mercy, and peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Will". The letters are cursive and fluid.

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