

REGATHERING PLAN FOR GRACE CHURCH YORKTOWN

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Please note: While we are eager to see EVERYONE, we ask you to observe distancing, safety protocols, spacing and directional markers. There will be check-in stations where attendance will be registered, screening questions addressed and masks verified.

We also ask anyone in the “high risk” category to consider their personal safety and stay home as necessary. You will be truly missed!

Answers to all your questions can be found below:

Guidelines for Outdoor Worship:

Where? Gatherings will initially take place in the churchyard on the south side of our historic church.

When? (*updated 9/30/20*) We will continue to gather at 5 p.m. Sundays as weather allows. If weather isn’t cooperative, we’ll post the cancellation by 3:30 p.m. on our closed-group Facebook page, our church Facebook page and the church website.

Who? Everyone is welcome, provided they can satisfy the screening questions.

Do I need to sign up in advance? No. Signups are not required.

Where do I park? The church lot is reserved for those with mobility challenges. Others may use public parking around Yorktown. All may use the church lot to drop off passengers, supplies and so forth. *Please note: Yorktown can be very busy on the weekends. Thus, you may be parking farther from the church with a 10-15 minute walk.*

How do I enter the gathering? From the church parking lot, walk towards the east (Parish Hall) access to the churchyard. There will be a check-in station where your attendance will be registered, screening questions addressed and masks verified. Please observe distancing/safety protocols, physical distancing, directional markers and all instructions from volunteer staff.

What about hand sanitizing? There will be hand sanitizing stations available as you enter and leave the churchyard. Please make liberal use of them!

Do I need a mask? Yes! Please bring your own.

Where do I sit/stand? Areas for worshippers will be clearly marked with survey paint at appropriate distances. Family groups* may sit/stand together in an area between two markers. (**Family groups are defined as people who live in the same house.*)



Do I need a chair? Yes, if you would like to sit down during the service. You will need to bring your own chair. The service will be 30-45 minutes long. So, if you feel you can comfortably stand for that long, you will not need a chair.

Will the restrooms be available? No. The building will not be open during the service. There are Park Service facilities located nearby on Church Street just south of Main Street.

What will we do when we gather? Our time together will be a casual, less formal worship. Our worship will consist of following one of the services as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer 1979 or approved supplemental worship resources.

Will there be communion? (updated 9/30/20) If communion is to be distributed, it will be done so in accordance with the guidelines as set forth by the [Updated Guidelines for the Administration of Holy Communion During COVID-19](#) issued by the Diocese of Southern Virginia on September 29, 2020. Additionally, proper instruction for how to receive the Eucharist will be verbally announced to those who are gathered to ensure everyone's safety.

What about the offering? Offering plates will be available on stands as you enter and leave. Please continue to support your church during this difficult time.

Where do I leave? We will exit via the west (church entrance) access to the churchyard or across the Park Service lawn. Those parked in the church lot will exit through the east (parish hall) access. Please remember **physical distancing** to minimize bottlenecks. Pay attention to directions of the ushers as you exit.

What if the weather is bad? As noted above, if weather is an issue we'll make the call by 3:30 p.m. Sunday, then post the cancellation on our closed-group Facebook page, church Facebook page and the church website.

Will there continue to be a livestream/online service? Yes! Our Sunday, 10 a.m. Facebook livestream service (posted on YouTube afterwards) will continue as before.

I have a question that's not answered; what do I do? We have tried to anticipate all questions, but realize we may not have considered everything. Please contact the office, 898-3261, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Guidelines for Outdoor Formation Groups:

Outdoor Formation Groups will follow the above guidelines and will be in accordance with the guidelines as set forth by the Diocese of Southern Virginia in the [Formation Gathering Recommendations](#) dated September 12, 2020. In addition to the above referenced guidelines, the following will be required:

- 1) Each formation group wishing to gather outdoors on the church property will be required to notify the church office of their planned gathering no less than one full week (7 days) in advance of the gathering. Additionally, each formation group must let the church office know the expected attendance of the event.

- 2) Each formation group must have one designated leader who will: a) record event participants; b) conduct screening questions for each individual as they arrive; c) ensure that the group is observing distancing/safety protocols and that masks are being worn at all times; d) will provide the attendance list of participants to the church office no later than one day following the event.
- 3) If the formation event is specifically for the purposes of gathering the Youth (defined as middle and high school students), additional authorizations and supervision will be required. This applies to all youth events happening both on and off the church property. Any events that are specifically designed for youth formation will be developed under the supervision of the church staff and will be properly communicated to parents well in advance of the planned gathering.
- 4) In accordance with the Diocesan guidelines referenced above, in-person formation events specifically geared toward children (defined as elementary school age [K-5th grade] and younger), including nursery care, will not be permitted at this time.