



October 22, 2020

Greetings to our wonderful Spring Valley Presbyterian Church family,

It's been a while since we've been able to worship inside our building. Coronavirus has certainly changed all of our lives. SVPC has been following the mandates and recommendations of the state of South Carolina, the White House's Opening Up America Again guidance, and information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during this time.

We are thankful to announce that we will begin worship indoors on November 8 in the Sanctuary and Potts Hall. The Task Force created by Session presented a reopening for indoor worship plan, and Session has approved it. The Task Force has met many times and prayerfully considered various options as they developed their plans.

The formal Mission of the Task Force was *to develop guidance and direction addressing the physical health and safety requirements for the eventual reopening of church programs, which include the necessary steps to accomplish this goal and establish a framework and timeline to do so.*

Session's most important objective is to do everything possible to keep our congregation safe and healthy and to make recommendations based on the best medical evidence available to us.

In this letter, we would like to share with you the details for Phase 2 Indoor Worship and hope that many of you will be able to join in our new style of Worship. Please note that our Thursday recording of our online service will continue and be available for those who may not feel comfortable attending the Indoor Worship Service.

Key Points:

- Two services are available Sunday mornings: Potts Hall at 8:30 AM and in the Sanctuary at 10:30 AM.
- The number of participants will be limited and those who wish to attend must sign up online.
- Social Distancing will be maintained - attendees will be assigned seating based on their reservations.
- Masks must be worn at all times covering the mouth and nose. All are encouraged to bring a mask, but masks will be available for those who may need one. Masks must be either surgical or cloth; **no valve masks or gator-neck masks allowed.** Face shields are not an acceptable mask substitute, but may be worn in addition to a mask.
- Members who are At-Risk are discouraged from attending the indoor services.
- At this time we will not have singing.
- No food or drinks will be provided or allowed in either service.

For those who feel comfortable attending an inside service, we so look forward to seeing you. Please let us know if you have any comments or ideas that may be helpful to us as we navigate the future strategies of determining the best way to worship. Despite the many uncertainties we face, there is one certainty . . . God is with us, no matter how difficult or frightening the situation. God surrounds us with His love—no matter our physical location. God will give us strength to face these times.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.” Psalm 46:1-3

May God bless us and keep us safe,
The Session of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church

Members of the Task Force: Joel Atkinson, Robin Brackett, Chip Collins, Brent Dillon, Jack Heinsohn, James McCallum, Chris McMenemy, Normand St. Onge, Ruth Roberts

Reopening Spring Valley Presbyterian Church for Indoor Worship

Facts/Instructions for SVPC Congregation

First Service 11/8/20

Two Sunday Services are Available

- Potts Hall at 8:30 AM
- Sanctuary at 10:30 AM

Reservations for Services

- Members sign up on a week-to-week basis using the online form at www.svpc.org. It is important to watch the video on the signup form and confirm that you have read this information as well. Feel free to invite non-members to the service. If you DO NOT have computer access, please contact the church office at (803) 788-3589.
- There is a limit to the number of seating.
- Attendees will be assigned seating for the service, if applicable; members will sit together as a family unit.
- No nursery will be provided for these services.

Seating at the Service

- Ushers will sign worshippers in and help control the pace and flow into Potts Hall and the Sanctuary.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Ushers will direct each attendee to their assigned section.
- Members should stay within their assigned section throughout the service.
- After the service, ushers will dismiss family units individually to allow for social distancing.

Expectations of Members Attending the Service

- Social Distance, Social Distance, Social Distance! Those attending the service will be seated at least six feet from others. When waiting to be seated, please stand at least 6 feet behind the nearest group. Sidewalks will be marked with six-foot segments.
- Entrance into Potts Hall will **only** be through the back door.
- Entrance into the Sanctuary will **only** be through the main entrance door at the front of the church.
- Please no hugging or handshaking. It's okay to wave and call out greetings!
- Masks must be worn at all times and must cover the mouth and nose. All are encouraged to bring a mask, but masks will be available for those who may need one. Masks must be either surgical or cloth; **no valve masks or gator-neck masks allowed**. Face shields are not acceptable as a mask substitute, but may be worn in addition to a mask.

Other Service Notes

- Bulletins will not be available. Please print a copy of the bulletin or bring an electronic version to view on your phone or iPad. You will be able to view them at www.svpc.org/stayintheknow.
- Restrooms off the Outreach Room or Bride's Room are available for emergency use only.
- Although much thought and consideration has gone into the plans for these services, please be patient. It is likely we will learn more about the virus that could cause changes to the way we conduct the services, and as we actually meet together, we may find better ways to worship together.

At-Risk Members

The CDC states that people of older age and people having serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Spring Valley Presbyterian Church hopes to keep our At-Risk Members safe and so recommends that At-Risk Members worship at home via the online worship link. Information from the CDC regarding increased risk follows:

Risk for Severe Illness Increases with Age

- As you get older, your risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases. For example, people in their 50s are at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 40s. Similarly, people in their 60s or 70s are, in general, at higher risk for severe illness than people in their 50s. The greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 is among those aged 85 or older.

Adults of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²)
- Severe obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Based on what we know at this time, adults of any age with the following conditions **might be at an increased risk** for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Overweight (BMI > 25 kg/m², but < 30 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

COVID Symptoms

If you have any of the following symptoms as listed by the CDC, please stay home and contact your primary care physicians for further instructions:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Unusual headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose, not due to seasonal allergies
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Also, if you have been recently tested for COVID, please stay at home until you have received the results of your test.

If you have been in close contact with someone who has recently received a positive COVID test, please stay at home for 14 days after exposure to that person.