

TASK FORCE ON REGATHERING GUIDELINES

On Mon., June 15, OAPC's Session, voted to approve the guidelines created by OAPC's Task Force on Regathering.

When most people think of "reopening" or "regathering" as a church, they think we set a Sunday date, and then everything goes back to the way it used to be. Not so. OAPC's process for determining worship in the sanctuary will be guided by statistical data, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Regathering will work in four phases. These guidelines will apply to both OAPC and outside groups who use our facilities. They are also a foundation upon which OAPC will be creative about other kinds of gatherings, including outdoor worship and small groups. The following is a summary of the phases. A much more detailed explanation will be communicated to the church soon.

SUMMARY OF PHASES

PHASE 0 - Where we are right now.

- Extremely limited in-person gatherings.
- Online worship.
- Limited gatherings can be held outside.
- Social Distancing.

In order to get to Phase 1, there must be:

- Two-week average of flat or declining positive cases in the York County area
- Acute hospital bed capacity to care for Covid-19 cases for York County is less than or equal to 80%.

PHASE 1

- In-person gatherings in the main OAPC building must be less than or equal to 15 people.
- Limited activities (including worship) in the Activities Center for less than or equal to 30 people.
- Online worship continues.
- Social Distancing

In order to get to Phase 2, there must be:

- Three-week average of flat or declining positive cases. This would be one additional week after transitioning to Phase 1.

PHASE 2

- In-person worship gatherings in the sanctuary while still streaming / broadcasting the service for those wishing or needing to stay at home.
 - Six feet apart, reducing the number who can attend.
 - Masks.
 - No hymnbooks, friendship registers, bulletins, offering plates.
 - No children's programs: Sunday school, Kids Kirk, Nursery.
 - No singing.

In order to get to Phase 3, there must be:

- Two additional weeks of declining positive cases. This could be three weeks after transitioning to Phase 1.

PHASE 3

- In-person worship gatherings in the sanctuary while still streaming / broadcasting the service for those wishing or needing to stay at home.
 - Six feet apart, reducing the number who can attend.
 - Masks.
 - No hymnbooks, friendship registers, bulletins, offering plates.
 - Children's programs may happen, this to be evaluated.
 - There might be singing, this to be evaluated.
 - Communion and baptisms may be performed.

In order to exit Phase 3, to pre-Covid patterns:

- Two additional weeks of declining positive cases. This could be five weeks after transitioning to Phase 1.

PLEASE BE AWARE

We may enter a new phase, then because of changes in the number of cases/data, we may have to go back to an earlier phase.