

NY FORWARD SAFETY PLAN FOR INDOOR SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

As of April 13th, 2021

New York State requires a written safety plan for reopening our church for public indoor services in order to ensure a safe environment for the congregation.

Below are points of safety that will be followed in order to have worship services held in the sanctuary.

In fulfilling the requirements established by NY State and the Hudson River Presbytery, please note the specifics to which we will adhere to the best of our ability.

Communication:

NY Forward safety plan will be posted within the church. Signs will be posted as to entrance, exits, mask usage and distancing. Signage will also be used to indicate spacing within the sanctuary.

Sign-in sheets will be kept at the entrance which will review the COVID screening questions, record attendance and contact information as needed.

Single use bulletins will be provided since there is no use of shared objects such as bibles and hymnals.

Church services will be available by zoom for those not attending in-person.

Physical Distancing:

The sanctuary will be utilized at no greater than 50% capacity. If needed, limited overflow seating can be set up in the social hall following the 6ft. regulations.

We will maintain a physical distance of 6 ft or greater between family units.

Wind instruments and those singing must maintain a distance of 12ft unless a physical barrier is provided.

We will avoid physical contact such as handshakes, hugs and shared objects. Single use bulletins will be available every Sunday.

We will enter the sanctuary through the main double doors, seating will be every-other pew as indicated by signage and spacing. We hope to seat congregates from front to back upon entering and exit from back to front. In that way, we will avoid passing too close to one another.

We will try not to have more than one person use the podium to avoid close contact. If possible, a second microphone will be set up for another user with appropriate distancing. The microphones will be cleaned between users with approved disinfectant.

There will be no coffee hour, shared food or drink at this time.

Single serve communion will be provided.

A “drop-off” offering basket will be set up at the entrance/exit of the sanctuary.

The back room will not be available for Sunday school but other locations such as the outdoor playground or social hall may be considered if the safety plan can be followed.

If needed, we can be creative in utilizing our outdoor space as long as we maintain regulations, distancing and PPE.

Protective Equipment:

Masks will be worn at all times unless someone is speaking at the podium. The microphone will be cleaned between speakers. A mask can be removed if singing or playing an instrument but then additional distancing (12 ft.) will be used to maintain safety.

PPE and hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance of the building.

Cleaning and disinfecting:

Cleaning and sanitizing will be done before and after church services with appropriate disinfectant taking special attention to point of contact places like door handles, bathroom space, and pews.

Cross ventilation and increase in air flow will be planned with open windows and doors while the sanctuary is in use.

There will be no shared food or beverages.

Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance and exit of the building.

The rest room will be single use only and will be cleaned /disinfected with appropriate products.

A record will be kept by the sexton as to cleaning and disinfecting the building as established by the building and grounds committee.

