

Date September 23, 2020

Dear Friends:

The Session has adopted a working plan to begin the re-opening of our facility. We appreciate your understanding and patience during these uncertain times for all of us. The guidelines below recognize that we are a community rooted in love, and our responsibility is to care for all and protect the most vulnerable.

We are using the phrase “For the Foreseeable Future” to give the time we are in some framing without a specific end date. The use of an open-ended timeline recognizes the unpredictable nature of the pandemic and gives us the flexibility needed at this time. Each month, or as needed, these guidelines will be reviewed.

Our guidelines for the Foreseeable Future are:

- In-person worship will continue in the parking lot at 10:00am through November 1st. These services will also be live-streamed for those unable to attend. The Session will continue to review options for in-person worship after November 1st, but at this time, services will remain outdoors. If the outdoor service needs to be canceled because of bad weather, an email will be sent on Sunday mornings by 8:00am.
- On-site indoor programming is limited to groups of 10 people. Group and committee leaders have been contacted on an individual basis and advised of the procedures for scheduling gatherings. Weather permitting – outdoor meetings are encouraged.
- We request that all events and meetings (outdoor, indoor, virtual) are added to the church calendar. Please contact Mary Fino in the church office to do so.
- Weddings, funerals, and memorial services are permitted with a maximum of 50 people in attendance. Family only attendance is encouraged. Each service will be handled individually by the pastoral staff.
- Parent’s Day Out (PDO) is taking place in the CE Wing. Our PDO director, Coleen Anzalone is working closely with the Covid Task Force and the PDO board to follow all state and local guidelines.
- We will continue to provide our weekly service to Journey’s and will continue to look for other service opportunities to benefit the community.
- The building will remain locked and key cards are disabled. If you wish to come into the church building, please call ahead and schedule your visit. Enter using Door 9 (the door near the receptionist) and stop at the check-in station. Please sign-in, use hand sanitizer, and take your temperature.
- Face coverings (masks) are required at all times when in the building.

We are thankful for the many ways that our church family has come together during this time, and we look forward to continuing to connect in many creative ways. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please send an email to pandemic@firstpresah.org

We hold each of you in the hope and love that our faith gives us until we are in-person again.

Faithfully,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights