

October 2020

To the First Presbyterian Church of Everett.

I am pleased to let you know our Session, with approval from our Northwest Coast Presbytery, has affirmed an in-person reopening plan. Currently, we are communicating the basics of our plan and the schedule is under review. This means we do not have an official time frame, but are prayerfully moving towards in-person worship.

Our reopening plan is written out of love for our church family, our neighbor in the pew, and a call to discipleship. We have an opportunity to demonstrate selfless love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. While we might not agree 100% with some of the things in this reopening plan, we will defer to it because our plan creates a place where people can feel safe to come and gather for worship.

Please be mindful, if you are uncomfortable being in public gatherings during this time, then please feel free to remain at home and come when you feel it is safe for you to do so. We are maintaining our commitment to livestreaming and virtual worship services for all.

Our plan follows a flexible 4 Step process:

Step 1 – No In-Person Worship

The sanctuary is closed for in-person worship. This step began after Sunday March 15th.

Step 2 – Studio Audience

The sanctuary will be open for up to 30 people to attend worship. There will be an online RSVP process for us to monitor numbers and keep a record for tracing purposes. All members and frequent attenders at worship will be asked to sign a Covenant of Care to be filed in the office (this is included with this letter). This Covenant of Care can be found on our website and we will have copies at the doors before worship. Anyone entering the building will be checked off the RSVP list or required to sign-in. We will accommodate persons who did not RSVP only if there is room. Otherwise, those individuals will be put on the worship list for the upcoming week.

We will have a table in the back of the sanctuary with a one-use paper bulletin and a plate for offerings. Please use pre-marked seating in the pews. We ask for all to maintain a 6-foot social distance, and there is hand sanitizer readily available.

During Step 2, all attending will follow these guidelines:

1. Everyone is required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth.
2. Seating is limited.
3. There will be no singing of hymns.
4. There will be no choir.

5. There will be no touching during the passing of the peace.
6. We will not formally celebrate the Lord's Supper.
7. Facility use is limited to the sanctuary only. There will be no in person coffee time, Sunday school, children's ministry, or nursery. All children are welcome and encouraged to sit/be with their family.
8. The main entrance for worship is through the Rockefeller doors with mobility access by the south Bell Tower doors.
9. Doors will open at 9:30am and the building will close by 11:30am.
10. Virtual worship, our Zoom coffee time and Sunday school will continue as scheduled.

Please note, our numbers and our process will be flexible. We will prayerfully work to respect state, county, city, and presbytery requirements and adjust for demand and safety. We will evaluate weekly and adjust. In time, we will slowly increase numbers toward Step 3.

Step 3 – Limited Seating

Our sanctuary has a large enough footprint to allow up to 70 people in worship. This metric is based on the square footage model advanced by our Presbytery. Greeters will welcome worshippers through the Rockefeller door. We will continue an online reservation form and weekly sign-in procedures to maintain a trackable list of those attending each week. Face masks will be worn throughout the service, hymns, upon direction, may be sung with face masks on, social distancing maintained and seating in designated spaces.

During this step:

1. We will follow all procedures in Step 2.
2. Individual communion cups will be available to take home after worship on communion Sundays.

Step 4 – Open Seating

When our county is approved for Phase 4, then FPCE will resume regular worship in a safe manner with attention to accessibility, sanitization, and hospitality.

The Covenant of Care form is part of this letter. You can sign it and mail it to the church, scan it and email to Pastor Alan, or bring it when we have a date for in-person worship. The full plan is 11 pages and has more information regarding our precautions, practices, and frequently asked questions. This full plan will be mailed out when we have a specific time frame. Our plan is fully available and can be found on our website and app.

We are all in this together.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway