



Green Spring Presbyterian Church

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Pastor Jon E. Martin

June 4, 2020

Dear Green Spring Family and Friends,

The Session and the Board of Deacons met on June 1 to prayerfully discuss how to restart worship in light of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Open Virginia Blueprint. Our official restart date is June 28, though some of you may not be ready by then. On the other hand, if anyone wants to come to worship before June 28, you are welcome.

The front doors will be propped open by 10:45am and the service will begin at 11:00am. Sunday School will continue by zoom only and may be moved earlier in the morning to allow people travel to the church if they wish. The Virginia guidelines recommend keeping the service under 45 minutes to limit the need for access to bathrooms.

The livestream and Facebook feeds will continue for the worship service so that those who prefer to worship from home may continue to do so. We do not intend to make a distinction between those who attend worship in person and those who stay home and worship virtually. No one should feel any pressure to attend before they feel comfortable. We follow the Lord who has enabled and entrusted each member of our church family with the ability to make a personal, prayerful and faithful decision as to the timing of their return to in-person worship.

Please continue to pray for wisdom and guidance as we work through all of this and practice some patients with each other. It is the Lord Jesus Christ we seek to serve in all we do. If you have any question or concerns, please call me and share.

Peace in Christ,

Green Spring Presbyterian Church In-Person Worship Protocols
(Based on the Commonwealth of Virginia's Phase 1
Guidelines for Religious Services Detailed on the
Virginia Department of Health Website)

1. We are limited to 50% occupancy, but we must maintain safe social distancing of six feet. The number of people able to be safely distanced in the Sanctuary is about 45. This number could be higher noting that family members (and those in the same household) may sit together. In order to achieve proper physical distancing in the pews:

- Worshipers will sit in every other pew. The pews will be clearly identified as those that open for seating and those that are closed.
- The main doors, the narthex doors, and the ramp door will be propped open so that door handles do not need to be touched by those entering the building. The elevator will not be available. All other doors will be locked.

2. Virginia guidelines recommend that everyone wear a face covering of some sort, during worship. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided for you. Our approach to this guideline is to lead by example.

3. The liturgy, songs, and announcements will be projected on the wall. There will be no bulletins and no use of fellowship pads, hymnals, or pew Bibles. No offering plates will be passed. A basket located at the rear of the Sanctuary will be available for the offering. Following the service, the deacons will use gloves to count the offering at a folding table that can be properly sanitized.

4. There will be no coffee and no food served until further notice. You may bring your own if you wish.

5. Our Cleaning service will clean and sanitize the sanctuary, office area, lower level, and restrooms each week.

6. Signage from the CDC is posted at all entrances showing safe practices for assembling and stating that anyone with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the prior 14 days, is not permitted in the church building.

7. Masks, hand sanitizers, and gloves will be available in the narthex and at the ramp door. Worshipers may bring their own PPE as they wish.

8. The celebration of the Lord's Supper will continue and individual, sealed elements will be provided to each worshiper.

9. The Nursery and preschool room will be available to parents and children, but a nursery volunteer will not be needed until further notice. The playground is currently closed because we do not have a method of cleaning it.

10. A volunteer greeter will welcome worshipers but remain socially distant. The greeter can assist with questions about seating and where to find PPE.

11. These guidelines are meant to be an expression of love for our neighbor, whom we want to protect and keep safe.

The Commonwealth of Virginia's Phase 1 Guidelines for Religious Services can be read at <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Virginia-Forward-Phase-One-Religious-Services-Guidelines.pdf>

These guidelines will be regularly reviewed and updated as state guidelines are updated.

June 1, 2020