



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Lancaster, PA

April 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

You have heard me say we do not want to keep our church building closed any longer than necessary. I'm pleased to tell you our Elders this week approved the re-opening of our building for Sunday worship in the month of May, with some necessary precautions still in place. Following serious consideration, Session approved the following motion:

Upon recommendation of the Pandemic Safety Team, that the church building will be open for worship beginning on May 2 at the "Orange" level for 25 adult worshippers following COVID-19 protocols. Beginning on May 16 the building will be open to 75 adult worshippers.

This means that we are inviting you to gather in-person for worship May 2 and May 9. These two weeks will serve as 'training' weeks for our new volunteers giving us a chance to relearn that 'choreography' as a church. Then we will be ready to increase worship capacity. The trial service will be at 9:30 a.m. lasting about 45 minutes as it did last fall.

Please be sure to let us know if you would like to join us for worship on May 2nd and/or 9th by using the registration button provided in the daily emails or email: info@fpclancasterpa.org, as space may be limited for these two dates.

All digital worship through TV66 and YouTube will continue to be offered as usual for any who are not ready to gather. In fact, we know that for many, these avenues have become a preferred way to worship for a variety of reasons. Since we want this digital technology to have a more permanent place in our ministry, you may want to consider giving a donation to the Technology Fund. Roughly \$20,000 is needed to make some necessary upgrades. If you have the ability to contribute to support this effort, your donation will be matched by the generosity of a member who is committed to this project. Please use the "Give Now" button in the daily emails and church website.

We are aware that the Coronavirus data for Lancaster County at-large is still in the zone deemed as 'unsafe.' However, we think that our own context is different than the rest of the county. For example, over 60 people have indicated to us that they are ready to return to in-person worship. (That feedback form remains available on [our website](#)). And it seems likely that the data will trend toward a safer scenario by May 16th.

Having said that, we will continue to follow data trends. And it may be necessary for Session to change its decision on or prior to the May Session meeting.

The Christian virtues of wisdom, humility, perseverance and love have continued to guide us as we grapple with this important decision. Out of "love for neighbors" we have exercised an abundance of caution. We think we are honoring these virtues still.

Please consider joining us during the month of May as we reopen our building. I am personally eager to see you and continue to be grateful for your faithfulness, compassion and creativity.

Stay healthy and hopeful,

Rev. Dan Snyder, Lead Pastor