

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONTCLAIR, NJ

JULY 9, 2020

Task Force's Statement

We pray our members and tenants will embrace the spirit in which this plan has been created. In an abundance of caution to protect our community and to ensure that Central follows state laws, adheres to health-care professional guidelines and qualifies for liability protection under the Presbytery, a prudent course of action is being taken. With the realization these rules may seem onerous to some, they were selected to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible while on Central Presbyterian property. We understand certain individuals may feel inconvenienced, but that's a small sacrifice for our fellow members and the broader community. We hope people will embrace these new rules in the spirit they are drafted - for the safety and well-being of all. Unfortunately, the pandemic requires all of us to change our behavior in ways never imagined. All of the policies and procedures detailed below are open to review and assessment as to their appropriateness in new stages of reentry.

Pastoral Statement

We are living in challenging times with an unpredictable pandemic, protests, and economic uncertainty. We have many concerns to be juggled day-by-day – all of them related to how we live together as a community. And, each of the concerns we are experiencing demands a faithful response that is gracious and merciful.

Jesus' one and only commandment was "to love one another as I have loved you." We remember his willingness to love others – healing, casting out demons, raising the dead, eating with sinners – how he extended himself for others. He put the good of others before himself, knowing he would be rejected for it, and he calls us to do the same. Love God and love neighbor, he said. That's the gospel in a nutshell.

Over the recent months, we have learned that the church is not a building but a people. Even though we have not met in the same physical space, the church has still gathered for worship, Bible study, coffee hour, art and Bible class, youth group, confirmation class, session and committee meetings, 123Kids outreach events, Deacon meetings, staff meetings, meetings with the Presbytery, choir meetings and recording, Thursday hymn performances, Wednesday meditation time, Bible quiz, Juneteenth service of prayer, racism discussion, book study, and much more, via Zoom and Facebook. The church has not been closed. In fact, those who have taken part have remarked that they now know one another better than ever. There is a blessing in the challenge we have been facing.

Our PCUSA Constitution says, "The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context." And we have been vigorously engaged in this unusual context in which we have been living. The Session is responsible for governing our congregation and guiding us to be a community of a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. Therefore, the Session has appointed a Task Force to study our current challenge with the Coronavirus pandemic and to make recommendations to the Session regarding our life together, especially establishing protocols for the use of our buildings by members, tenants, and guests.

The Task Force is studying science and healthcare guidelines; federal, state, and community guidelines; Presbytery guidelines; and Biblical and theological standards for being God's people. The Task Force was directed by the Session to create a Stage 1 protocol for the use of buildings. Stage 1 is generally the stage we are at currently- with virtual programs, meetings and worship. This is the foundational stage upon which other stages may be built. It has been approved by the Session and by the Presbytery.

REENTRY PLAN - STAGE 1

- Building entry is limited to staff and volunteers as identified by staff and/or task force
 - Staff and volunteers who feel sick must notify the worship leader and stay home
 - Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 must quarantine in their home until such time they test negative for the virus and are fever free for three days
 - Individuals who live with family members or roommates that test positive for COVID-19 must quarantine in their home in accordance with CDC recommendations
 - Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 after visiting Central Presbyterian Church will initiate a deep cleaning of the facility visited (e.g., if individual visited PSA, only PSA facility would require deep cleaning)
- Sunday worship continues online, presented from the sanctuary at worship leaders' discretion
 - Face masks, worn over nose and mouth, required for all except for speaker/soloist when leading worship
 - Masks will be provided for those who have not brought their own
 - 6 feet distance minimum social distancing
 - Building should remain locked at all times
 - Signs will be posted at all entrances reminding everyone of mask and social distancing rules
 - Signs will be posted at any toilet with a lid reminding users to close lid before flushing
 - Signs will be posted at all sinks detailing the importance of handwashing and proper methods
 - One soloist permitted – downstairs and safely distanced at least 10 feet from other worship leaders
 - Hand sanitizing wipes and/or sanitizer liquid, without ethyl acetate, available
 - Worship leader responsible for compliance of above guidelines
- Or worship will be presented from other locations via Zoom/Facebook live

Education building

- Doors should be designated for:
 - Church members – near Community Room
 - IHN – front entrance close to the church office
 - PSA – use their entrance
- Building should remain locked at all times

- Hand sanitizer, without ethyl acetate, will be provided in all common areas, including but not limited to areas just inside of entrances
 - Face masks, worn over nose and mouth, required in public spaces; not required when alone in private spaces, such as private offices
 - Social distancing of six feet by people not of the same household/family unit should be maintained at all times when inside building
 - Signs will be posted at all entrances reminding everyone of mask and social distancing rules
 - Designated bathrooms
 - Church members – near Community Room and second floor
 - IHN – front hall near elevator
 - Church office staff – next to Guild Room
 - PSA – use facilities in their space
 - Designate stalls and sinks when possible at discretion of staff
 - Signs will be posted at any toilet with a lid reminding users to close lid before flushing
 - Signs will be posted at all sinks detailing the importance of handwashing and proper methods
 - Sporadic community requests for assistance, food and monetary, handled outside the door; sign will be posted directing people to kitchens providing meals
 - Tenants mail will be delivered in boxes in front hall
 - Pastor responsible for compliance; tenants must designate compliance manager
- Cleaning
 - Cleaning products – CDC approved Clorox is being used according to directions on the package.
 - Areas regularly cleaned: doorknobs, handles, bars, and areas around them on all doors; buzzers at doors
 - All high touch surfaces- tables, counters, stair railings
 - Kitchens- counters, handles on all doors and equipment
 - Bathrooms- counters, sinks, dispensers, all handles, toilet seats and bowls
 - Church Office included; staff offices cleaned by individual staff.
 - Timing- by 8:30 AM and again around 12:00 PM
 - Process- Mark Schoonfield sprays (he has NJ training through Rutgers and licensing for all sprayable chemicals, as well as use and handling), Arshon Moses follows after an appropriate waiting period to wipe.

Outdoor gatherings - attendees are required to be six feet apart; individuals should wear face masks at all times where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and individuals who are in vehicles shall not count towards the gathering limit. Singers must be 20 feet apart.

Request for uses outside of Sunday Worship and use of office space not outlined in this document must be sent to Task Force.

Congregation will be notified of Stage 1 Guidelines via website, email to congregation, and newsletter. Tenants will be notified by Pastor David; their compliance plans for all stages of reentry must be submitted to Session for approval and then shared with the Presbytery for archiving. The staff will be notified in a Staff Meeting.