



*Emsworth Presbyterian Church  
73 Hiland Ave  
Emsworth, PA 15202*

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
801 Beaver St.  
Sewickley, PA 15143*

**June 12, 2020**

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Friends,

In May, we sent out a plan for moving toward reopening the church buildings as the world begins to slowly creep out of lockdown and quarantine.

After watching reports in our county and the next door counties, we have selected a date to move into the next phase of our plan. We will be moving from red to yellow on Friday, July 10. If you look at the updated plan we have attached, you'll see one addition from the first edition of this plan - outdoor worship during the yellow phase.

Did you know that being in a group of people outdoors is 19 times less likely to spread Covid-19 than being indoors? We learned that recently ourselves, and knowing that, we believe that by adding outdoor worship two evenings per month, we can still keep everyone reasonably safe from infection while still gathering together for corporate worship.

Here's what this will look like:

**Saturday, July 11th at 6PM, we will gather for a worship service on the lawn at St. Andrew's.** We are asking that in order to save on disinfecting costs and effort, everyone bring with them their own lawn chair or folding chair. If you do not have access to such a chair or are unable to transport one for some reason, please email me at [rev.charissa.howe@gmail.com](mailto:rev.charissa.howe@gmail.com) and we will work something out. Households will be required to sit at least 6 feet apart from one another. Masks are recommended, and if you don't have one, we will have a washable, reusable one available for you to use and take home for future use. While we know you've missed one another and this will be a joyful reunion, please refrain at all cost from hugging, shaking hands, or otherwise coming in physical contact with anyone from outside your household. We have many people in our community who are at risk for major complications from Covid-19 and we have already seen firsthand how dangerous it can be. Air hugs, jazz hands, shouting "yay! I missed you!", and complimenting everyone's crazy quarantine hair are all acceptable greetings. The building will not be open for restrooms, so please plan accordingly. Restrooms are the most difficult part of the building to keep appropriately sanitized. **There is no rain plan.** If there is a little bit of rain, grab an umbrella and come anyway. If there is a lot of rain, we will cancel. Keep an eye out for a weather alert via our usual winter weather system if you are unsure.

**On Saturday, July 25th at 6PM, we will gather at Emsworth on the lawn with the same directions for community safety.** Please park on the far end of the large parking lot, the small lower lot, or the street, and we will gather on the half of the large lot closest to the building.

On both of these weekends, we will still have Sunday morning virtual worship just as we've been doing. This will allow those who are still uncomfortable gathering in person to worship from the comfort and safety of their homes. In other words, **Sunday morning worship will continue exactly the way it's been continuing over the past few months online, but we'll be adding the Saturday evening in person worship twice a month.**

We will also use both of these evenings to gather used laptops, tablets, and smartphones to begin putting together our new mobile technology education lab. This program will include a mobile technology lab, classes on technology use in day to day life, a tech lending library, and improved live-streaming abilities moving forward when we are back in the sanctuary again. For every *working* device donated (please remember to bring the charging cables if you still have them), you will receive a receipt for the in kind donation and we will receive credit toward the matching grant we have been given. **We receive \$4 from the Presbytery for every \$1 worth of donated items and cash donations, up to \$4000 total of matching.** If you have non- working tablets, laptops, or smart phones, we will recycle them for you for a recommended cash donation of at least \$5. Those cash donations will count toward the matching grant. Anything we collect (in-kind or cash) over \$1000 enables us to do even more with this new program. We cannot accept desktops, monitors, non-smart phones, or other electronics/accessories. Feel free to ask around to your friends and family for donations of items and cash for this project as well. The more we collect, the more we can do to help connect to our community and help our community connect as use of technology is becoming increasingly important in day to day life. Stay tuned for information on online fundraising for this project, as well as additional drop off dates that you can share on social media.

I can't wait to see all your faces in person on July 11!

Stay safe and healthy, friends.

Blessings,



**Rev. Charissa Howe**

Leslie Linko, SAUPC

Caretaker

Paul Zende, EUPC Caretaker

Sue Schneider

Nancy Mehalic

Bez Stellfox

Marti Smart

Clyde Williams

Janet Shaffer

John Scanlon

**Emsworth Session 2020**

Martha Markivich

Jimmie Nicolazzo

Brian Henry

Lori Wade

Eileen Kearcher

Elsie Knappenberger

**St. Andrew's Session 2020**

## RED PHASE

1. Buildings closed to all but staff. Staff may still work drop-in hours for basic administrative and maintenance tasks and recording worship as needed.
  - a. Recommended no more than 2 staff members in building at a time. Staff must remain at least 10 feet apart.
  - b. Any work that can be done from home must be done from home.
2. Online only for worship, bible study, fellowship, and meetings.

## YELLOW PHASE

1. Buildings closed for public worship.
2. Staff may still work drop-in hours for basic administrative and maintenance tasks and recording or livestream of worship as needed.
  - a. May have up to 4 staff/leaders in building for recording worship if masks are worn for encounters closer than 10 feet.
  - b. Work from home when possible.
3. Option for outdoor worship with social distancing protocol and bring your own chair. There will be no corporate singing at these services. Family groups will sit at least 6 feet apart. Masks are suggested and will be available for those who don't have one with them.
  - a. Offering plates for each church will be available to leave donations in.
4. Online only for all other worship, bible study, fellowship, and meetings.
5. Emergency/necessary meetings of no more than 10 people may be held in person, but it is strongly recommended that they are conducted online.
6. Funerals may be considered by the session, based on current situation, on a case by case basis.
7. One on one technology access instruction may occur in the church building or at member's home if masks are worn and devices are disinfected both before and after instruction.
8. Persons exhibiting any signs of illness (cough, fever, etc) or who may have been exposed to Covid-19 are asked to stay home. It is strongly urged that individuals take their temperature before leaving their home and practice self- isolating if they are running a fever of over 100°f.
9. Attendance will be taken at all events so that, in the case of another member with confirmed Covid-19, we are able to contact all those present and notify them of the need to self quarantine. Church will adhere to "red phase" standards for two weeks following such a scenario.

## GREEN PHASE

1. Public Sunday morning worship may resume, but with precautions such as:
  - a. No corporate singing
    - i. Organ music, piano music, stringed or percussion music (eg: instruments that don't rely on human breathing to operate), music videos, and prerecorded music will be incorporated into the service instead.

- b. Masks must be worn at all times during all group gatherings and will be provided for those who do not have one.
  - c. Family groups/households seated at least 6 feet apart.
  - d. No handshakes, hugs, or other physical contact between persons from separate households.
  - e. Offering plates will not be passed. They will be stationary at the front or back of the sanctuary. Only those counting the offering will handle the plates or the offerings. Online giving will still be strongly encouraged for all.
  - f. Communion will be served via pre-packaged elements congregants will pick up at the beginning of the service and dispose of themselves at the end of the service to limit contact and keep the staff safe.
  - g. Buildings must be thoroughly disinfected between use according to health regulations and guidelines, as well as insurance considerations.
  - h. There will be no close-contact Sunday school for children. A children's sermon/moment will be included in the service instead.
  - i. Observing any state, county, or federally mandated person limits
  - j. Live-streaming of worship will continue in addition to in person worship.
  - k. Only one worship leader will use any one microphone during the service. All microphones will be disinfected after use.
  - l. No activities involving food.
2. Unnecessary sections of buildings will be blocked off and marked "staff only." All non-staff persons will be asked to remain in the open portions of the building in order to keep to a minimum the areas that must be disinfected after gatherings.
3. In person Bible Study and committee meetings may resume with caution.
  - a. Online options for bible study and committee meetings will also be available.
4. Persons exhibiting any signs of illness (cough, fever, etc) or who may have been exposed to Covid-19 are asked to stay home. It is strongly urged that individuals take their temperature before leaving their home and practice self-isolating if they are running a fever of over 100°f.
5. Attendance will be taken at all events so that, in the case of another member with confirmed Covid-19, we are able to contact all those present and notify them of the need to self quarantine. Church will adhere to "red phase" standards for two weeks following such a scenario.