



TINKLING SPRING

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EST. 1740

Re-Opening Plan

Our goal is to keep the TSPC family safe and healthy. All along the way, we will err on the side of caution with compassion for one another and the wellbeing of all at the forefront of our decisions and their timing.

All decisions having to do with the reopening of the church building and church programming will be made at the sole discretion of the Session and the pastor as its moderator and may not resemble the decisions of any other entity.

Each step below is designed to be one level behind the phases delineated by the “Virginia Forward” guidelines published by the Virginia Department of Health. This is because the median age of our membership is higher than that of the general population. At all points within the re-opening process, existing conditions prevail. Transitions from one step to another will be done at the sole discretion of the Session of TSPC and the pastor. Each step presumes the allowances of the previous steps. At any time, we may revert to a previous step.

External party use of the church property will be at the discretion of the pastor and the Session.

Parachurch gatherings that fit within the description of a certain step will follow the guidelines of that step. The museum will remain closed to the public for the duration of steps 1 through 4.

Video worship services will be provided throughout—even after we reach Step 5.

Step 1 – Boards and Ministries

The Session and Diaconate may resume their stated meetings. Session and Diaconate ministries comprised of gatherings less than 20 that cannot accomplish their business in any way but in person may begin meeting on the church property, but only in larger rooms of the building or in outdoor spaces such as the Pavilion.

Measures:

- At-risk Ruling Elders, Deacons, and members of ministries shall attend at their own discretion. All present must wear a facemask that covers the mouth and nose. Masks will be provided for those who do not have one.
- All present must observe a distance of at least 6 feet from one another (social distancing).
- All must sit in a broadly spaced seating configuration.
- No handshaking or other types of physical contact
- No food or beverages will be served.
- Church offices remain closed to visitors.
- No in-person worship services
- No in-person programming other those mentioned above

Step 2 – Outdoor and at At-Risk Populations Worship and Adult Christian Education Classes Resume

There will be two Sunday services at 8:30am and 6:30pm. They will be held outdoors. The church building will remain closed to all but staff. For those who must use the restroom, the door to the adjacent building will be open. See *Worship Reopening in Detail* supplement at the end of this document for more information.

There will be two additional worship services for those in at-risk categories, including those 65 years of age and older, which will be offered in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays at 10:30am and 1:30pm starting with the implementation of Step 2.

Rationale:

1. *Person-to-person air droplets spread very quickly through indoor circulating air systems and in a confined space. Air droplets spread farthest by cough or sneeze. Without a mask the air droplets from either can spread up to 20 feet. Air droplets can also be carried by the breeze.*

Measures:

- Keep in-person worship gatherings within the limit of persons as prescribed by the Virginia Department of Health.
- We will begin outdoor worship services at the above- mentioned times.
- No congregational fellowship gatherings will be permitted.
- Families in attendance for worship gatherings will sit a minimum of 6 feet away from another family (social distancing).
- No congregational singing
- All in attendance will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose. Masks will be provided for those who do not have one.
- All must sit in a broadly spaced seating configuration.

- No food or beverages will be served.
- Funeral and memorial service arrangements involving small gatherings will be considered. All current precautions will be followed.
- Adults may gather for adult Sunday school, Circle, and Bible study classes in groups of 20 or less at the discretion of the Christian Education Ministry and each class teacher.
- Everyone gathered will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
- We will offer two Wednesday worship services at the above-mentioned times for those adults who are in at-risk categories, including those who are 65 years of age and older. These services will be held in Fellowship Hall.
 - All Step 2 safety precautions will be followed.
 - Masks will be provided for those who do not have one.
- We will video record worship services.
- We will eliminate any worship-related elements that involve multiple people touching the same surfaces.
 - Offering plates will be stationed rather than passed around.
 - On communion Sundays, participants will be asked to bring their own bread and drink from home.
 - Our nursery will be closed.
 - Outdoor surfaces will be sanitized before, after, and between services.
- Office visits for ministry-related purposes may be made by appointment only, Monday through Friday.

Step 3 --Fellowship Gatherings Resume

All measures from Step 2 apply with these additional allowances:

- We continue worshipping outdoors.
- If we continue to find them well attended, we will continue offering two Wednesday worship services for those adults who are in at-risk categories, including those who are 65 years of age and older.
 - These services will be held in Fellowship Hall.
 - We will practice the precautions found in Step 2.
 - All in attendance is strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
 - Masks will be provided for those who do not have one.
- Congregational fellowship gatherings may resume.
- Nursery not provided during worship services
- Adults may gather for educational and fellowship programs in groups of less than 20 in larger rooms of the church building or outdoor spaces. All must sit in a broadly spaced seating configuration. Everyone gathered will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
- All Sunday school classes will resume at the discretion of the Christian Education ministry and class leaders.

- No shared food or beverages at fellowship gatherings.
- Middle and high school youth, ages 11-18, may gather for educational and fellowship programs in groups of less than 15. Everyone gathered will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose. Masks will be provided for those who do not have one. Groups may only gather in larger rooms or outdoor spaces.
- The church office will open to visitors for Session and Diaconate-related ministry purposes Monday through Friday, no appointments necessary.

Step 4 – Indoor Worship Resumes with Precautions

All measures of Steps 2 and 3 are lifted, with these allowances:

- We continue offering two Wednesday worship services for those adults who are in at-risk categories, including those who are 65 years of age and older.
 - These services will be held in Fellowship Hall.
 - We will practice the precautions found in Step 2.
 - All in attendance will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose.
 - Masks will be provided for those who do not have one.
- We will resume congregational singing.
- Nursery provided during worship. It must be staffed by those who are healthy and under the age of 65.
- Disable all water fountains
- Open all interior doors
- Groups with those in at-risk categories, including individuals over 65, may gather for Christian Education and fellowship in groups of less than 20.
- If held within the church building, groups should gather in larger rooms or outdoor spaces, and only in broadly spaced seating configurations.
- Adults may gather for educational and fellowship programs in groups of any number. All are encouraged to wear facemasks. If held within the church building, groups may gather only in broadly spaced seating configurations.
- Middle and high school youth may gather in groups of less than 25. Facemasks are optional. Face-to-face seating permitted with social distancing. No volunteers in at-risk categories, including those over 65.
- Children in elementary school and younger may gather in smaller groups across different spaces. No volunteers in at-risk categories, including those over 65.

Measures still in place:

- No handshaking or other types of physical contact
- Be mindful of honoring one another's space.

Step 5 – A Return to Familiar Standards

We rescind all previous restrictions.

Worship Reopening in Detail

At the beginning of Step 2 of our Re-opening Plan, we will resume plenary worship services in outdoor spaces. The staff has walked the length of our property to find a place that best fulfills these needs:

1. A flat area on the property that:
 - a. provides availability to electricity for an audio system (a microphone for each worship leader, speakers, musical instrument(s))
 - b. provides worship leaders with a shelter from inclement weather
 - c. provides worship leaders with space large enough for musical instruments and the ability to social distance
2. Provides the ability for worshippers to congregate in lawn chairs on a cool surface
3. Avoids the need to change spaces or cancel due to inclement weather
4. Provides worshippers with the ability to congregate in vehicles in drive-in style
5. Provides the possibility for all to congregate in vehicles in drive-in style in the event of inclement weather.

Two Sunday Worship Services Proposed

Worship Service #1:

Sunday morning worship service at 8:30 am. We will gather in front of the portico adjacent to the sanctuary (out the Rt. 608 doors).

1. Worship leaders will use the portico as the chancel area.
2. This space provides the largest area of flat and dry ground on the property.
3. This space is adjacent to plenty of parking for drive-in style attendance
4. In the event of inclement weather, there's plenty of adjacent parking lot space to accommodate the entire congregation for drive-in style worship services.
5. We will use loudspeakers and an FM radio transmitter to provide sound.
6. The restrooms of the adjacent building will be available.

Worship Service #2:

Sunday evening worship service at 6:30pm. We will gather in the lawn outside the old doors of the sanctuary.

1. Worship leaders will use the sanctuary entrance as the chancel area.
2. This space provides a flat, grassy, and shaded lawn to congregate in
3. In the event of inclement weather, we will revert to worship space #1.
4. We will use loudspeakers and an FM radio transmitter to provide sound.
5. Drive-in style by parking will be available in the Fellowship Hall lot, but visibility might be limited due to trees.
6. The restrooms of the adjacent building will be available.