



Fair Street Reformed Church

209 Fair Street, Kingston, New York 12401
(845) 338-7722

www.fairstreetreformedchurch.org

fschurch1@gmail.com

Dear Fair Streeter,

As we have explored the many options, listened to the professionals, researched the requirements for places of worship, we are getting closer to feeling ready for the day when we might be able to gather in person in the sanctuary once again for worship.

Right now, we, the Elders, feel that when the region reaches Phase 4 of the re-opening process, provided the number of people in group gathering size increases, we might be ready to try to offer in person worship on Sunday, July 12. Realizing that this might change, we wanted to start somewhere and offer a date. Please take some time to watch the videos that are on the website, and/or read through the letter from your Consistory and Safe Church Ministry Team who have been faithfully working to make sure that your health and well-being are priority as we come back together.

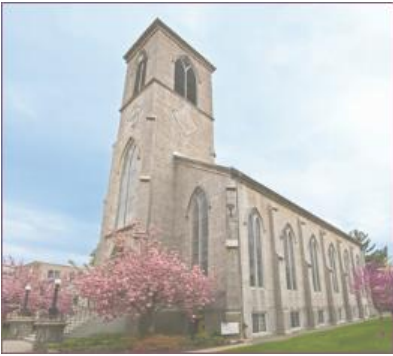
Know that if you have any questions, you can reach me at any time on my cell phone through a phone call, text or even an email. You can also reach out to your Care Group Elder and/or Deacon, their information is at the end of the enclosed letter.

I know that it has been a challenging time and most of us would have never fathomed a time when we would be worshipping remotely during a global pandemic! But I am so overwhelmed with gratitude for the way you have all risen to the challenge and have been open and willing to learn new ways of connecting and worshipping together! Well done people of Fair Street, well done!

Thank you for your support, prayers and patience as we strive to move forward ... together!

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you today and always,

Pastor Kendra



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Dear Fair Streeter,

Over the past few months, we have been working faithfully and diligently to develop a plan to provide the safest space possible when it comes to worshipping together in the Sanctuary. Please read Pastor Kendra's short note to explain when that might be.

While there are many areas that will need to be addressed, this letter and the first part of our re-opening plan covers **WORSHIP ONLY**. (You will want to stay tuned for updates regarding the Church Building and the Fairly New Thrift Shop).

Here's what you can expect upon returning to the Sanctuary for in-person worship. These are broken down into six different sections that coincide with the six short videos Pastor Kendra put together that are on our website. We are sharing these videos and this letter on both the News and Online Worship Pages. It is important that you watch the videos and/or read the following:

Arriving to worship (Video One)

- Expect to wear a mask. This will be a requirement upon entering the building and throughout the entire worship service.
 - If you need a mask, please let Pastor Kendra know as she has some extras.
 - We will also have a limited number of disposable ones should you need one for the service
- A consistory member will greet you outside the building to welcome and direct you.
- A sign will be outside to welcome you and remind you to wear your mask and maintain the six-foot social distancing rule
- Doors to both the Sanctuary and ramp for Elevator use will be propped open to eliminate the need for points of contact.
- The Elevator will be available for use, one person/family at a time. A Deacon will be available to assist and spray the elevator with disinfectant after each use.
- Please, PLEASE honor the six-foot social distancing rule and refrain from physical contact and greeting.
- A side note: we won't be taking your temperature upon arrival, but we do encourage and ask that you take your temperature, and if you have a fever over 100.4, to please stay home and join us on worship via Zoom.
- If you have traveled outside the region, to a region that has had a spike in covid19 cases, we ask that you worship from home on Zoom.
- If you are feeling generally under the weather... for your health and well-being and the health and well-being of your fellow Fair Streeter's we ask you to please worship on Zoom from the safety of your home.

Once you're inside the building (Video Two)

- **Hand Sanitizer:** There are Touchless Hand Sanitizer Stations in the Narthex and just inside the Sanctuary. We will be asking you to use Hand Sanitizer on your way into the Sanctuary and as you leave the Sanctuary.
- **Masks and gloves:** these will be available on the table in the narthex should you need one.
- **Trash Can and recycling:** Please help us with clean up following worship by tossing your trash in the trash can and any papers or recycling in the recycling box.
- **Please do not gather and congregate in the narthex.** You will see that the chairs have been removed and we ask that you enter and move to your seat in the sanctuary.
- **There will be signs** to direct and remind you to maintain the safe and social distancing of six feet.
- **Offering Plates:** you will see the offering plates on the table just inside the sanctuary, these will remain here so that you will be able to place your offering in the plate on your way in to or as you leave worship.

Once you're inside the sanctuary (Video Three)

- **Where to sit:** we have marked out the sanctuary that holds to the 6-foot social distancing rule. Basically, if the cushion is missing and the door is closed, don't sit there. Of course, families are invited to sit together, and we ask that if a family is sitting together, that you sit 6' away honoring the social distancing rule. (This also means, the closest you can sit with your friends...is six foot apart).
- **Why is everything so empty!?** To eliminate as many points of contact as possible, we have removed everything from the pews! However, here's what you will find:
 - Liturgy pages: we will continue to print up and provide a liturgy page each week. These will be placed in the pews where you will be able to sit.
 - Announcements and prayer updates will be shared in the Fair Street Weekly that is sent out on Mondays.
 - QR Codes: in the pews, you will find three of those little boxes that you can scan with your phone camera. What are these for? (Don't worry, Pastor Kendra will explain on the video more about these)
 - Visitors and guests: the blue and white QR code when scanned will send friends joining us for the first time to sending the office an email with their information to let us know that they were in worship.
 - Prayers of joy and concern: the red QR code will bring up a text message to Pastor Kendra's phone in which you will be able to send her a text message with your joys or concerns to share with the Fair Street Community so we can be in prayer. When we get to the time of prayer, Pastor Kendra will be able to just pull up her phone and look to see what prayers came in during worship. Don't worry if you don't have a fancy phone to scan the code, we are still working on a way in which you can share your joys and concerns in a safe way.
 - Online giving: The green QR code will bring you safely to our secure online giving site. This is provided just in case you forgot your offering or would prefer to give of your gifts and offerings this way, rather than dropping it in the offering plate.

During worship (Video Four)

- **Singing:** until we know more, and new safer scientific studies come out to ensure that singing is safe (yes, even with masks on), singing will not take place in worship. We will have music, but it will be for reflective purposes. The Choir and Praise Team will be suspended until further notice when we feel it will be safe to be back together for worship.

- Children and worship and Nursery Care: until we know more about the pediatric syndrome and see how the Coronavirus impacts (or doesn't impact the region, C&W and Nursery Care are also suspended as we do not feel we can safely provide for your child and each volunteer. Rest assured, parents of young children, WE LOVE HAVING YOU IN WORSHIP! Please know you are always welcome and invited to pack a small toy or book or activity book for your child to engage with during worship.
- Pastor Kendra will lead worship and remain on the stage area the entire time. (Yes, she assured us she can stay in one spot!).
- We will work to have a shortened service to 45 minutes.
- We will continue to offer Zoom and share the service in full on the website.
- Passing of the peace – as much as we love sharing the passing of the peace with a warm embrace and greeting, we are going to move to a contact free greeting and encourage you to greet one another with a wave, a simple hello or hand over your heart as you quietly greet and respond.

Leaving worship (Video Five)

- Please allow Pastor Kendra to leave the Sanctuary and get in place to safely greet you on your way out
- As you leave, please be mindful of the 6-foot social distancing rule and be patient, you all came in staggered and now want to leave at the same time.
- Please take your liturgy page with you and take it home or drop it in the recycle box on your way out
- Use some hand sanitizer on your way out!
- The Parish Room will remain closed with the exception of the rest room. There will be disinfectant in the restroom, and you will be encouraged to spray the space before and after using the toilet and sink and touching the doorknobs.
- Coffee hour: until further notice Coffee hour is suspended. We ask that you not congregate in the narthex and if you must talk with someone after worship, you are asked to do so at a safe distance, with your masks on outside after worship. We are still exploring how we might be able to remain in the sanctuary and hold a check in time with one another as we have during our virtual coffee hour time on Zoom.

What's next (Video Six)

We know this is a lot of information, but we wanted to be as transparent and prepared as possible with you all. We know that there are some other updates we'll share as time goes along, but these were what we felt most important for now.

Next week, your Elder or Deacon from your Care Group will be calling you to check in and see how you are doing and ask you the following questions.

- ***If we were to re-open on July 12 for worship, would you come?***
- ***Would you stay home and join us on Zoom?***
- ***What do you need to feel safe to gather in person in the sanctuary for worship?***

We will be gathering your responses and together, the Consistory and Safe Church Ministry Team along with Pastor Kendra will be making a concrete decision about moving forward with re-opening by the end of the month. We pray you are well and look forward to the day when we can see you in person again!

Your Consistory members are:

Chris Cahill, Ralf Stegmann, Ann Kalmbach, Audrey Kithcart, Peggy Ploss, Elaine Martin, Stephanie Costa, Peter Boyle, Tim Kovaleski, Sharon Amorelli, Todd Levinson, Ray Tator and Rev. Kendra

Your Safe Church Ministry Team Members are:

Todd Levinson, Chair, Cathy Maletta, Bev Rigney, Peggy Ploss, Peter Boyle and Pastor Kendra