

St. John's Christian Church – Reopening of Ministries Information – May 22, 2020

The following information was assembled by the Resumption Task Force and approved by the Consistory. The task force included: Ryan Christman, Tiffany Johnston, Jon Lindsay, Brad Roth, Jeff Rutledge, Crissi Stuckey and Pastor Erich. The full details involved in resuming our ministries are:

We recognize the need and desire to resume gathering together in the sanctuary for worship, and to resume all of the ministries of the congregation. Prudence suggests that the manner in which we resume activities should remain in thoughtful alignment with the guidelines provided by national, state and local health officials. A few basics to begin with:

1. Churches were deemed essential and did not need to suspend church activities.
2. Churches were asked by the Governor of Ohio and by local health departments to comply with the Stay Home Order in a spirit of community cooperation to uphold the intent of the Order.
3. St. John's suspended church activities out of an abundance of caution and available information. All churches represented by pastors in the Archbold Area Ministerial Association suspended in-person worship and ministries.
4. In terms of resuming church activities, local health departments have offered recommendations based on the Stay Safe Ohio Order, which have been incorporated into this document.

Guiding Principles to be Considered:

1. The safety of the congregation and community.
2. The congregation's public witness.
3. The prayerful witness of our congregation's faith leaders.
4. The particular needs and circumstances of our congregation.

Considerations to be aware of:

1. The Stay Safe Ohio Order remains in effect at least through May 29th, with certain exceptions and exemptions being enacted as time goes by.
2. The responses to the Coronavirus have been and will continue to be different from person to person. There is a wide range of responses, from "I don't care" to "This is really fearful". One pastor put it this way – "we are in the same storm, but in different boats."
3. Remember to offer grace, mercy and love to those who perceive this situation different than you.
4. There is no perfect plan that will ensure everyone's safety or make everyone happy. The SJCC leadership is making the best decisions they can with the current information they have.
5. Keep praying for the Lord to foster unity amongst us all as believers, and that we remain faithful in the ways of Christ so that satan cannot cause division or dissension.
6. Information has been gathered and studied from the State of Ohio, Fulton & Henry County Health Departments, Medical Personnel, Faith Based Organizations, Area Businesses and Area Pastors/Churches.

Safety Procedures/Protocols of St. John's Christian Church for Resuming In-Person Worship

1. We encourage everyone to practice good hygiene:
 - a. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer as frequently as possible.
 - b. Cover coughs and sneezes (into a sleeve or elbow).
2. We will continue to offer our weekly Pause for Praise Radio Broadcast at 8:30am on WMTR. An audio recording of this radio broadcast will be available on our church website.
3. We will offer a live stream broadcast of our 10:30am service of worship.
4. We ask that people who are at high risk of severe illness from Covid-19, including elderly individuals and those with serious underlying health conditions, consider staying in their residence through the end of June, realizing each person can rightfully make their own decision.
5. If you are sick or not feeling well, or live with or are caring for someone who is sick or not feeling well, we ask that you please stay in your residence and worship via the radio or online.
6. We encourage everyone to take temperatures before arriving at church. There will be volunteers, wearing masks and gloves, with temporal thermometers, at the three open entrances to the building, taking peoples temperatures, and sanitizing the thermometers between each use.
7. The wearing of a mask is recommended, but not required.
8. We ask everyone to practice the physical distancing of 6 feet in the parking lot, at building entrances, along the hallway and in the sanctuary. Such physical distancing dictates that there be no hand shaking, pats on the shoulders or hugging. Appropriate markings will be in place to designate the 6 feet distancing requirements.
9. People may enter and exit the building only through three entrances – the carport, the east accessible, and the south porch entrances.
10. Upon entering the building we ask people to please move along the hallway and into the sanctuary so that all may maintain the 6 foot distance.
11. The nursery, narthex, mother's room, chapel and gym will be reserved for people who are in the vulnerable population category, people in health care (if they choose too), and people who arrive after the sanctuary seats have been filled – the service will be projected in these areas.
12. The nursery will not be available for use for childcare.
13. The drinking fountains and the coffee service will not be available for use.
14. Automatic hand sanitizers will be available at our building entrances, in addition to your use of your own personal hand sanitizer.
15. The sanctuary, entrances and restrooms will be sanitized before and between services.

16. If the weather permits, entrance doors will be propped open, or if the weather does not permit, someone will be at the door, wearing a mask, to open the door for everyone.
17. Sanctuary and balcony doors will remain propped open before, during and after each service.
18. The sanctuary pews will be sectioned off along physical distancing guidelines for staggered seating requirements.
 - a. Family units may sit together in a pew.
 - b. Keeping two pews empty between occupied pews will provide 6 feet of distance.
 - c. Individuals and couples should sit at the ends of each pew (2 to 4 people per pew) to keep 6 feet between people from different households.
19. Pictures will be taken in the sanctuary, and other areas people might be sitting for purposes of follow up contact in case someone in worship later gets sick.
20. There will be no bulletins – the order of worship will be available online or on the screen.
21. Pew Bibles and Hymnals will be removed from the pews – scriptures and lyrics will be on the screen. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own Bibles.
22. Recognizing that singing propels oral droplets further than normal talking, singers are asked to be aware of slightly turning their faces so as to not sing directly towards others.
23. Children will stay seated with their families during the children's lesson.
24. Offering plates will not be passed, but will be placed at the entrance doors of the sanctuary.
25. Services of Baptism, Dedication and Communion will be postponed until at least July 5th.
26. People will be dismissed in an orderly fashion to ensure appropriate physical distancing.

Sanitizing Protocols:

1. Church custodians will sanitize entrance doors, foyers, restrooms, hallways, handrails, sanctuary pews and sanctuary chairs on Mondays and Fridays.
2. Trained volunteers will sanitize entrance doors, restrooms, door knobs/push plates, handrails and sanctuary pew tops and sanctuary chairs between services.
3. Sanitizing will consist of using proper chemicals and wipes to wipe down all horizontal surfaces.

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Ohio Public Health Orders

April 30	Resumption of Non-Essential Surgeries & Procedures
May 4	Manufacturing, Distribution, Construction May Reopen
May 15	Personal Care Services May Reopen
May 21	Eateries May Reopen for Dine-in Service
May 20	Stay at Home Order Lifted

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Schedule subject to adjustment based on Public Health Directives

May 11	Consistory formed a Reopening Task Force
May 18	Consistory Works on Reopening Plan
May 19	Resumption Task Force Met
May 21	Consistory Works on Reopening Plan
May 26	Normal Office Hours at Church - 8am to 12pm, 1pm to 5pm
May 31	In Sanctuary Worship Resumes Per Attached Information

Date	May 31	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5
Social Distancing	Strict Adherence	Strict Adherence	Strict Adherence	Moderate	Moderate	Normal
Facial Covering	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Optional	Optional	Optional
Vulnerable Populations	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Normal

SJCC's Sunday Activities

8am Worship	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person
8:30am Pause for Praise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10:30am Worship	Online/In Person	Online/In Person	Online/In Person	Online/In Person	Online/In Person	Online/In Person
Sunday School - Adults	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	Regular Schedule
Sunday School - Y/C	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Regular Schedule
10:30am Nursery	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Regular Schedule

SJCC's Mid-Week Activities

Bible Studies	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Regular Schedule
Small Groups	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	Regular Schedule
Committee Meetings	Resume on June 1st	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule
Ministry Events	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	TBD
Funerals	Private	Limited Services	Limited Services	Limited Services	Limited Services	Normal Services
Weddings	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	Regular Schedule