

September 8, 2020

Lansdale Presbyterian



Fall 2020 Ministry Plan

Continuing to Reopen

We are grateful that our church was able to resume in-person worship services on June 28th. Since then, we have seen attendance at our building rise steadily throughout the summer. At the same time, by God's grace, we have not experienced any cases of COVID-19 among our members or visitors.

These and other steadily improving circumstances in our community encourage us as we look to the future. State and local virus statistics continue to improve even as our communities continue to open up. Restaurants, stores, salons, fitness centers, and now some schools have opened with good results. As this is being written, the Governor has just announced his plan to further lift indoor dining restrictions from restaurants.

All of this has encouraged us at LPC to now resume some of our in-person ministry gatherings in addition to our current Sunday morning worship. We will also be adjusting some of the original guidelines we had put in place. Our goal has always been to better serve our congregation and community, while at the same time mitigating the risks involved in doing that. We believe the evidence demonstrates that so far we have met this goal. As we look ahead to our next steps we endeavor to keep these priorities before us.

The elders are grateful for the patience and humility that has been displayed throughout this season of change and difficulty. The servant-minded attitude of Christ is our model here (Philippians 2:1-11). We encourage everyone to press on in this way of thinking as we begin to take some new steps in reopening.

What to Expect

Below is a description of what can be expected when attending various events at LPC. Many of these items carryover from our initial reopening plan. New items will be highlighted in **bold**.

Masks

We are continuing to ask that masks be worn when entering the building on Sunday mornings by all persons age 5 and older.

Exceptions:

- according to CDC recommendations, those with medical conditions that make them unable to wear a mask, such as those with trouble breathing or those incapable of removing their mask without assistance should not wear a mask.
- Those serving on the platform, such as pastors and singers will not wear masks while leading in worship.
- **At the request of congregation members, beginning September 13th, the gym will be designated as a "mask-optional space" during the Sunday morning worship service.**

Social Distancing

- We will utilize additional worship spaces including the café, library, commons, and gym in order to space people out during worship.
 - Every other pew will be used.
 - Overflow seating areas spaced out 6' apart.
 - **We will no longer be seating front to back and the side doors of the Worship Center will be open.**
 - **There will be an usher stationed in the center aisle to help attendees find available seats.**
- Offering boxes/baskets available after the service. Baskets will not be passed during service.
- Social distancing encouraged in fellowship areas before and after services.
- Entrance to building through front doors only.

Cleanliness

- Hand sanitizer stations positioned around the building.
- Greeters opening entry doors.
- Bulletins placed on seats in available rows rather than passed out by ushers..
- Coffee or food will not be served at this time.
- Sanitizing high touch items and surfaces between events.

Nursery

- **Nursery care provided during the worship service for children age 4 and under.**
- **Nursery age children are not required to wear masks.**
- **All nursery workers will wear masks and the nursery will be cleaned weekly.**

Age 4 - 5th grade will meet in the back portion of the gym.

- Masks should be worn by all children age 5 and up.
- Seats will be assigned and grouped by families to allow for social distancing.
- Each child will receive their own tote bag with clipboard, pencils, crayons, etc. to avoid the use of shared supplies.
- Children will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon arrival.
- Snacks will not be served.
- Brian and Mary Hand will begin as teachers and bring others along to finish out the semester.

NEW!

Sunday School 9:15-10:00AM

6th-8th grade will meet in their usual classroom with Dr. Poythress.

- Masks should be worn by all students.
- The room offers sufficient space for social distancing.
- This class will also be available via Zoom.

9th-12th grade will meet in the youth room with Dr. Haynie.

- Masks should be worn by all students.
- The room offers sufficient space for social distancing.

Adults will meet in the Worship Center (also via Zoom)

- Seating will be available in the rows not being used for the worship service (those without bulletins on them).
- Masks should be worn.

New!
Jr. Church

Available during the sermon for students age 5-2nd grade.

- Meets in classrooms E-21-23.
- Masks should be worn by all students.
- Efforts will be taken to social distance.
- Students should have Sunday school tote bags with supplies to avoid the use of shared materials.
- Children will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon arrival
- Snacks will not be served

New!
Small Groups

Small Groups refers to all groups under 25 people including youth, young adults, Bible studies, committees, etc. not meeting on Sunday morning.

These groups have been approved to resume meeting and determine the way this can best be accomplished to meet the needs and levels of comfort of their group members.

- This may include groups that will meet in-person, via Zoom, or a hybrid of the two.
- Plans to mitigate risk are to be submitted to the church office. Pastor Hand is available for consultation in developing plans.
- Groups meeting at church must communicate their schedule with Lori Davis.
- Groups are to be considerate of other groups that may be meeting at the church at the same time.
- Those looking to join a group are encouraged to contact the group leader concerning specific plans for the group.