

Dear People of St. Peter's,

The vestry's plan for resuming in-person gatherings for worship has been approved by Bishop Waldo. There are numerous, important details about the vestry's plan that we want you to carefully review before considering whether to sign up to attend our outdoor worship gatherings.

If you are in a high-risk group, as described by the medical experts at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we discourage you from signing up to attend these worship gatherings. The safest choice for those who have the highest risk is to avoid all public gatherings. Therefore, St. Peter's will continue to offer our online worship broadcast from inside the Church every Sunday until there is a widely available vaccine and/or effective treatment for COVID-19.

Our outdoor worship gatherings will not be the same as what we have known and loved about worship at St. Peter's before March of this year. Although obvious, it is important for us to prepare ourselves for this expectation before we begin. We know this plan will not appeal to everyone. Our highest priority is to follow the recommendations of medical experts for offering the safest possible assemblies. Here are those basic guidelines:

- a. There is room for 12 households to attend each service. Whether you are single or part of a multi-member family, you may sign up to sit at one of the 12 (front) benches of our pre-arranged picnic tables. Only members of the same household may sit together.
- b. All attendees must agree to wear a mask the entire time and maintain 6 feet of distance from everyone who is not part of their household. Parents will need to prepare their children before arrival about following these guidelines. *(Medical guidance is unequivocal about the benefits of masks for others and for the person wearing the mask. Unfortunately, asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread of this virus continues to be a well-documented public health danger.)*
- c. Anyone who develops questionable symptoms or receives a positive test result after signing up must not attend. Otherwise, all are welcomed—including those who have recovered from COVID-19 and have followed the medical guidelines for suspending their time of strict quarantine.
- d. All surfaces and handrails will be disinfected before and after each liturgy by designated volunteers. Since we cannot disinfect the pavilion bathrooms between potential uses, they will be closed. Ushers will assist those with any special needs in our Church buildings, but attendees should prepare before arriving for the lack of convenient restrooms at these shorter-than-normal liturgies.
- e. We do not plan to sing at these outdoor gatherings at this point. There are some logistical challenges with traffic noise. We expect to read one (rather than both) lessons prior to the Gospel reading.
- f. Worshippers will receive the Sacrament in one kind—the consecrated Bread. The clergy will only touch the bread with gloved hands, and will place the Bread on the altar for households to come forward—one at a time—and pick up, before returning to their seat to adjust masks and consume.
- g. Please don't arrive more than 10 minutes prior to the liturgy. We are not equipped to manage pre-liturgical socializing in addition to other responsibilities. After the final blessing, households will be dismissed one at a time to return to their vehicles in order to avoid unintended crowding upon exiting.
- h. Those who sign up will receive a digital file of a simplified bulletin. Ushers may also place paper copies on the benches with gloved hands. Attendees should take their bulletins home after the liturgy.
- i. In the event of inclement weather, a notice will be posted on Sunday morning on the home page of our web site: www.stpetersgreenville.org.
- j. Please sign up for only 1 service in July until we can assess the demand for seats. We expect to be able to offer each interested household two chances to sign-up in August.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we seek to worship God—first, by protecting the most vulnerable and second, by gathering to pray, listen to Holy Scripture, and receive the Holy Sacrament as well as we are able. I am grateful for our vestry's commitment to serving and supporting our congregation during this very difficult time. Blessings and Peace,

