The Reopening Plan of First Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls

Phase II

Hi Again FPC Family:

Great job everyone! By observing social distancing, washing hands for 20 seconds, wearing masks and not putting yourself into dangerous situations that may have resulted in spiking the virus, we have not only flattened the curve, we stomped it. It’s not completely eliminated but we haven’t seen a spike. The Klamath Falls Commissioners submitted a request for Klamath County to move to Phase 2 on Friday, June 5th and the Governor has granted their request. That’s great news!

The news gets even better though. Our Commissioners requested that Klamath County be permitted to allow larger groups to meet together on Friday as long as two requirements are met, social distancing (6 feet apart) and proper sanitation practices are followed.

We are so proud of our FPC Family. Thank you for being patient, especially those who do not like to wear the masks. Our sacrifices are paying off and we are well on our way to getting back to normal.

**The Process for Reopening Worship: Phase II**

Beginning Sunday June 7th (THIS SUNDAY!) we will continue worship both in the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00AM. We are permitted to seat up to 250 people in a room with 6 feet between individuals or family groups. No reservations will be required, simply come.

Once the sanctuary is filled we will begin seating downstairs unless you prefer to sit in the Fellowship Hall. We know some have chosen to worship downstairs so that those who must worship in the sanctuary due to disability or hearing loss may do so. Preference will be given to those with physical disabilities and hearing loss.

We will continue to livestream the service for those who should not return (the elderly, ill and those with underlying conditions) and for those who want to wait to see what happens as the state reopens. We encourage everyone to come back when they are ready. We will get back to normal; it’ll just take time.

We will have two entrances. If you know you want to worship in the Fellowship Hall, use the lower entrance. If you prefer to worship in the sanctuary, use the main entrance. If the sanctuary is full you will be able to proceed to the Fellowship Hall using the stairs. Seating will be first come first served except for those mentioned above.

The Praise portion will be LIVE! The Praise Team will be on stage this Sunday with the words projected onto the screen. You no longer have to print off the words to the music. The sermon outline and the church bulletin will remain online for you to print them off and bring with you to worship. Discussion questions based on the sermon will also be available online with a link sent to you via email. If you are not on the church’s email list, call the church office and ask Scott to put you on the email list.

On June 7th we have three special surprises: 1. The PNC will report to the results of their search, the name of the candidate they have chosen, and why. 2. Pastor Richard has a special presentation in appreciation for all the first responders. So if you know a first responder, invite them to worship this Sunday. 3. We have special music planned for this Sunday and we think you’ll be blessed.

**Protocols for those Attending in Phase II:**

During Phase 2, we are still asking people to wear a mask but ONLY as they enter into the sanctuary and leave. Once seated you may take your mask off. Again this is precautionary, and it is effective in preventing you from passing the virus to your fellow worshipper. It is an act of love and love, as you know is, “sacrificial service for the good of others at personal cost.” Love one another!

We will have Hosts who will assist in seating people at safe distances and in dismissing people from back to front in order to maintain social distancing as people enter and depart.

We will seat people in family units and 6 feet apart from the next family unit. We will be seating every other row and staggering the rows. The rows will be marked. Red means “stop, don’t sit in this pew” and green means go ahead. You can sit in that row.

Offering plates will be placed at the back of each room so worshipers can drop their offering into the plates.

Following worship, we hope you will stick around and fellowship. So we can maintain social distancing, we ask that you fellowship outside the building. It is hard for 250 people to fellowship inside the building and maintain social distancing. We also encourage people to go to a local restaurant and fellowship in groups of 10 and under. Be a blessing to our local business so not one of them goes under in Klamath Falls.

All rooms, pews, restrooms, doorknobs, etc. have been sanitized. If a second service is required, there will be a sanitation team to sanitize between services.

We will take communion together on June 7th using prepackaged communion kits that people can pick up as they enter the service. Each kit has a wafer and a cup of juice. Once used the packaging can be placed in the plastic bag it was sealed in and discarded as people leave.

**Small groups and ministry teams**

Small groups will not be affected by Phase II. All of our small groups meet already because they are all under 25 in number. All groups can decide for themselves how and when they want to meet.

If you want to meet at the church, please make a reservation with Scott Dickson so we can make sure the room is available, sanitized and set up for your group. If your group meets weekly or monthly let Scott know so you won’t have to call in every week or month to make another reservation.

There will be sanitation stations in every room. Sanitize the room following the meeting. Then post the sign provided indicating the room has been sanitized so the next group using the room will know it is safe.

**Children's and Youth ministry**

Currently we do not have a plan for Phase II. Session did not think we should impose a Phase II plan on families with kids. Instead we have asked the Director of Children’s Ministry to gather the parents who have children to plan Phase II. For now, the nursery, Sunday school, King Kids, and all Children Ministry events will remain closed until further notice. If you are a parent with kids contact Mary Kern and participate in the Phase II planning. We want to be responsive to your needs.

The same is true for our youth ministry. We are asking Holly Stork to gather the parents of our youth group to plan out the summer and what a Phase II youth ministry looks like.

**Socializing safely**

During Phase II, churches are still asked to avoid providing food or beverages for worshippers. Our next “brunch” will be Sunday, July 5,th the annual church picnic. We have reserved the park and hope to have the worship service in the park, followed by a celebration meal. It is uncertain if outdoor events will be permitted. As of now, large gatherings in local parks will not be permitted through the end of September. As the event draws nearer we hope to get clarification on outdoor worship services in local and state parks. Stay tuned for more information.

In Phase II there are fewer restrictions on small group gatherings and the sharing of meals. We encourage people to get together at local restaurants, in homes, wherever to break bread, share deeply from your lives, pray ardently for each other, and show God’s care to one another.

Check with local nursing homes and assisted living places to get their updated procedures for the reopening of these facilities. Follow whatever processes and procedures they have deemed appropriate for their place. If small groups of people are permitted to visit, first make sure each person is well and has washed or sanitized their hands immediately before visiting. Go as a family and bless our elderly. They have been isolated for too long!

**Phase 3 Plans – To Be Determined**

Session has started a long term planning process using the guide: *“Key Questions to Prepare for a New Season of Ministry.”* We’re reviewing existing ministries to help us evaluate our mission, and discern what new opportunities have emerged that we were unaware of before the virus. God is creating waves of opportunity for us to make a greater impact in His name. We want to make sure we catch those waves!

Blessings,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church