

Greetings to our Faith family,







We pray that you and your loved ones are doing well during this unprecedented time in our history. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly had a major impact on our lives and we miss being able to spend time worshipping and celebrating with you in person.

At its May 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the Session of Faith Presbyterian Church formed our Church Reopening Task Force, comprised of Ruling Elders Glenn Luedtke, Carol Carden, Judy Bell and Brandon Ward. The Task Force's first meeting was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> and the group continues to meet on a weekly basis.

The purpose of the Task Force is:

1. To evaluate the current guidance, from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Milwaukee Presbytery and from the Centers for Disease Control regarding group gatherings
2. To determine the process needed for reopening the church for worship services, meetings, outside groups that utilize our building, and other on-site events once reopening the church is deemed feasible and responsible
3. Planning for continued monitoring and responding to the evolving situation, to ensure that we can continue to spend time together in person safely.

To these ends, our first recommendation to the full Session is to follow the Badger Bounce Back plan outlined by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This plan includes a progression of three phases, each of which is entered when all specified "gating criteria" are met and maintained. As of today, Wisconsin has not yet entered Phase 1 of the plan and remains under the "Safer at Home" guidance. Here is an example of the gating criteria, met when the indicator is green:

Indicator	Metric	Status
Symptoms	Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period.	
Symptoms	Downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period.	
Cases	Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period.	
Hospitals	95% of hospitals affirm that they can treat all patients without crisis standards of care.	
Hospitals	95% of all hospitals affirm that they have arranged for testing for all symptomatic clinical staff treating patients at the hospital per CDC guidelines.	
Health care	Downward trend of COVID-19 cases among health care workers calculated weekly.	

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/prepare.htm>

Phase 2 of the plan would allow for groups of up to 50 people, our typical maximum Sunday worship attendance. It is at that point we would like to reopen the church, but following the Badger Bounce Back guidelines, proper distancing within the building would have to be maintained. We have evaluated our space within the church and believe it is feasible to allow for that many people to worship together safely when the time comes.

However, gathering together will require changes to our former routine:

- Temperatures will be taken when you enter the church building
- Hand sanitizer will be provided when you enter the church building
- Attendance will be monitored for tracking purposes in case any worship attendees test COVID-19 positive
- Wearing a mask will be required
- Seating in the sanctuary will be arranged for proper social distancing – thus, you may not be able to sit in your favorite spot
- Hand-shaking will no longer occur
- Surfaces will be disinfected regularly
- Offerings will be placed in a specified location, rather than passing of offering plates
- Changes in Communion - determined by the Worship Committee
- Bulletins will not be printed/used
- Singing will not occur and hymnals and Bibles will be stored away
- The nursery & lounge will be closed; children will remain with their parents
- The kitchen will be closed, and there will be no fellowship time with food and drinks following worship
- \*Other changes implemented as needed

Once Wisconsin enters Phase 3 of the Badger Bounce Back plan, we can begin to review some of the items above, but those in red will likely continue. We will follow public health guidance for each of these items. As a supplement to this letter, please refer to the Milwaukee Presbytery's guidance on the three phases of the Badger Bounce Back plan entitled [Presbytery of Milwaukee Phases for Returning to In-person Gatherings/Building.](#)

Deacon Jennifer Gallatin graciously agreed to join the Church Reopening Task force as of June 8<sup>th</sup>, and is working to keep the church website updated with information on our process. You can find more information, including links, meeting highlights, and status updates at [franklinfpc.org/covid-19-updates](http://franklinfpc.org/covid-19-updates).

Lastly, the Task Force may call upon your assistance as we consider those with the talents needed to help us safely and successfully reopen our building. If asked, please consider the call and know the support you provide is needed and appreciated.

We know that many of you want to come back to worship together – and so do we! But, it is our responsibility to do that as carefully as possible – especially because a number of our members fall into the higher risk groups. Remember, caring for each other is the most Christ-like act we can do.

Blessings,

Glenn Luedtke

Carol Carden

Judy Bell

Brandon Ward

Jennifer Gallatin

# Presbytery of Milwaukee Phases for Returning to In-person Gatherings/Building

## Phase One

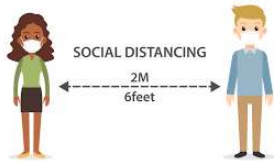
2+ weeks declining cases  
 Widespread testing available  
 Hospitals not in crises  
 < healthcare workers w/ COVID  
 Contact tracing & tracking systems in place



online worship



< 10 in building (ie: to record worship, small group meetings)



between users

## Phase Two

Phase One measures + several weeks declining cases



online worship



< 50 in building, facemasks, social distancing, thorough cleaning



no bulletins/friendship pads/bibles/hymnals



Children stay with parents

## Phase Three

Phase Two measures + several weeks declining cases



Online worship



no limits on attendance but limit crowding, facemasks still recommended, social distancing encouraged



watch public health guides for singing and eating (communion)



no bulletins/friendship pads/bibles/hymnals

