

UPDATED PHASED APPROACH TO REOPENING for FIRST PRESBYTERIAN GROUPS ONLY

March 21, 2021

Elders Mike Cane (MD), Kourtney Frohlich, Pam Grossman, and Brian Hocker with the Staff Leadership Team of Robyn Michalove, Joshua Stewart, Dana Fickling, and Michael Waschevski continue meeting in order to make recommendations to Session as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and changing realities.

The church continues to be called to exercise patience as we bear with one another in love during these extraordinary times. Bearing with one another in love and maintaining our unity should not lead to divisions within the congregation based on age, underlying health conditions, or vaccine status.

The Work Group has researched governmental and religious guidelines, phased plans related to reopening of churches, Executive Orders, and the Tarrant County Health Department COVID-19 updates. In addition to considering what is wise to reopen in phases, the metrics for entering a phase and the precautions required is of great importance. When the pandemic is declared over by Tarrant County Health, FPC is fully opened with no restrictions, including accommodating outside groups/meetings.

	<i>Metric to enter</i>	<i>Required precautions</i>	<i>Possible openings</i>
Phase One	Current phase based on previous metric of Substantial Spread as defined by Tarrant County Public Health.	Masks required. Staff temperature checks. Hand sanitizers upon entry. Frequent handwashing. Twice daily sanitizing of common areas. 6 feet of social distancing.	Church Office with staggered staff to reduce census and church members allowed in office as necessary to meet with pastors or staff. EEC with enhanced protocols and reduced census. Outdoor gatherings of 25 or less masked and distanced. Parking Lot service, including in person plaza seating. Essential ministries of food through Community Crossroads.
Phase Two	Tarrant County 7-day average positivity rate between 5-10% for two consecutive weeks. If positivity rate rises above 10% for two consecutive weeks the Session would return FPC to Phase 1.	Masks required. Hand sanitizers upon entry. Frequent handwashing. 6 feet of social distancing. Sanitization after each small group meeting.	Church Office staffed. Work from Home accommodated, as necessary. Modified In Person worship in the Great Hall (9 a.m.) and Sanctuary (11 a.m.) at reduced capacity (120 Great Hall, 175 Sanctuary) while continuing virtual worship. To begin April 11.

			<p>Funerals/Memorials/Weddings at reduced capacity in Great Hall and Sanctuary.</p> <p>Small groups (under 25) in larger rooms. (Gym, Great Hall, 235, 237, Youth Suite, West Concourse). Session committees determine what groups in their ministry area are appropriate and on what frequency with the following exception: Church School classes will continue virtually or outdoors through the Spring term to reduce total number of people and interactions in the building on Sunday mornings . No childcare available during the worship services.</p> <p>Individually packaged food for takeaway available for small groups.</p> <p>Community Crossroads opens selected ministries based on need and accommodation for reduced capacity.</p>
Phase Three	<p>Tarrant County 7-day average positivity rate of less than 5% for at least two consecutive weeks. If positivity rate rises above 5% for two consecutive weeks the Session would return FPC to Phase 2.</p>	<p>Masks required.</p> <p>Hand sanitizers upon entry.</p> <p>Frequent handwashing.</p> <p>Daily sanitization of building.</p>	<p>Office fully staffed.</p> <p>All Group gatherings allowed with necessary precautions.</p> <p>Modified In Person Worship & live streaming, incl. WOW and 8 a.m. Service.</p> <p>Childcare available during worship.</p>