



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

*A loving community in relationship with God,
Serving Christ and respecting the dignity of all*

Second Avenue and West Street

PO Box 193

Parkesburg, PA 19365

Office: 610-857-9176

www.ascensionparkesburg.org

Email: ascensionparkesburg@gmail.com

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Dear Ascension family,

Your vestry is happy to share with you the happy news that we will be gathering in our sanctuary for worship starting June 6, 2021.

Updated CDC guidance and the local situation with the pandemic allow us to be together in-person for worship. This is such an exciting development and it will be good to be in our sanctuary and building once again. We look forward to seeing many of you following several months of being apart.

As exciting as this development is, the vestry is reminding you that there are still some cautions related to the pandemic that remain important. We are a parish that has several children among its members, and some of the children have not/cannot yet be vaccinated. Also, some of our adult members perhaps have not been vaccinated. Vestry strongly suggests that you come to church ready to wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated. We will have disposable masks available in the church. There will also be hand sanitizer available for your use.

When you arrive for a service, you will notice a form to sign that can be used for contact tracing, should that become necessary. Please take a moment to include your name and signature on the form.

Please consider your seating choices when you come to the service. When it is possible, vestry asks that you leave a space of about 3 to 6 feet between your family/household and another family/household.

Our coffee hour food and drink offerings will be modified to avoid communal dishes, for the time being. And we are likely to hold coffee hour outside when the weather cooperates. We have the good fortune of a campus that includes lots of outside space where we can share time with one another.

The FB Live streaming of the service will continue when we begin again to use our sanctuary for worship. One of the blessing of the last several months is our learning to use technology to share worship. People that are not local or for whom getting to church is a challenge are able to be fed with on-line participation in the service. And the stored video permits folks that are not able to join on Sunday to view the service during the week so they can enjoy a time of worship. We anticipate a learning curve while we stream from the sanctuary and with people in attendance, but our skills in that regard will improve so that the experience of those on-line and those in-person is a satisfying one.

The diocese is working with us to secure supply priests for our services. When a supply priest is not available, we will have a Morning Prayer service. Our service time will be 9:30 a.m. as it has been for the last several months.

Our priest search team will be meeting with the diocese staff on June 6 to share ideas around calling a new priest. We will be able to give you updates about that effort periodically. Thank you to everyone that shared thoughts with us by way of the recent survey.

Great excitement surrounds these expanded opportunities for worship and being together. Please join vestry in showing care for everyone and the right amount of caution so that all that attend will be kept safe. God gifted us with freedom and autonomy. Let's respect the ability each of us has to make choices. And let's love others as we love ourselves – consider the needs of others and be sure to place their needs at least on an even level with your own, or maybe above your own.

Oh, Happy Day!!!

Be at peace and be well!

Your Ascension vestry