



# ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

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Dear People of St Martin`s,

I hope this finds each of you well.

Our reentry plan was approved by the Vestry and the Bishop, and **we will have our first live service in the church, a single service at 9:30 AM on June 28, 2020.**

Our live weekly worship services going forward will be quite different from those we had before the coronavirus pandemic hit our area. All changes are in accordance with the Bishop's guidance (available on-line at <https://www.diopa.org/news/faith-based-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19> ) and are being made for the health and safety of our entire church community.

We have worked to make these protocols as comprehensive as possible to mitigate the risks of returning to in-person worship. However, because asymptomatic individuals can still infect those around them, you should make your decision to attend church on the assumption that anyone could be a carrier of the virus. No precautions, however thorough, can provide 100% protection - meaning that even if you thoroughly clean/disinfect and use personal protective equipment (PPE), there is still a risk. Therefore, **if you do not feel safe returning to church yet for any reason, you are encouraged to stay at home.** We will support you in that decision, and the weekly recorded service will continue.

**There will be one service each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. inside St. Martin`s.** Holding a single weekly service removes the need to disinfect quickly between services. (Of course, we will have a thorough weekly cleaning.)

Diocesan guidance at this time **limits total attendance to 25 people**, including the priest, reader, organist, and soloist, and we are assuming that initial attendance will be less than that number.

Per the Bishop's directions, no **children or teens** will be on the church property until Fall. The nursery is also closed. Our Christian Formation Director, Deb Parker, will continue to lead the Zoom Summertime Sunday School for all ages every week at 10:00 AM. Friends from \_near or far are invited to drop in for any session!

**Attendance** will be taken at every service to comply with diocesan guidelines. The names, telephone numbers, and email addresses of all those present (both parishioners and guests) will be recorded and filed in the church office. If an attendee is subsequently diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, we will be contacted by the Health Department and must be able to identify who else may have been exposed at our church. This enables **contact tracing** as a measure to control the spread of the virus.

**When you arrive at Church on Sunday morning at 9:30, remember to wear a mask and maintain six-foot social distancing.** Six-foot indicators will be placed inside and outside the church. The church doors will be propped open to eliminate the need to touch handles and to facilitate air flow. An usher will check everyone in and offer a disposable mask to anyone who needs one.

**Social Distancing Seating:** A second usher will be inside the church to help with seating and distancing. A rope will be hung across pews that are not to be used. A service program will be laid on each available seat. Please remember to keep your distance from the ushers too.

**At the end of each occupied pew,** sanitizer, tissues, wipes, and a brown paper bag (for trash) will be provided each Sunday and collected on Monday.

All **worship materials,** including hymnals, prayer books, and Bibles have been removed from pews. Your program will contain the entire printed service as well as all necessary information on social distancing, masks, communion, sign of peace, entering and leaving church, use of bathrooms, etc.

**Air conditioning and fans** will be on throughout the service to facilitate air flow.

There will be a **collection basket** at back of church for offertory envelopes and donations.

**During the service** there will be only one reader, who will read from the lectern where the microphone will be turned on. The reader's mask will remain on.

**Communion:** If the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, the cup and paten will remain on the altar. The Celebrant alone will drink from the cup. Others (including the chancel party) will receive communion in one kind (bread), which will be distributed by the Celebrant who has washed/sterilized their hands immediately before the distribution.

The celebrant will remove the chasuble prior to distributing communion. There will be a sanitation station at the front for communicants to use immediately before receiving the host. The host will be dropped into each person's hands (no touching and no wine). The celebrant will bring the consecrated host to those indicating the desire to receive it in their pews.

**Music:** The Soloist/Cantor must maintain a 30-foot distance from any other person while singing. Consequently, our soloist will perform from the back of the Gurley Room. The congregation is not to sing, and there will not be a choir.

**Ushers:** We will have two trained ushers each week (training will be provided to those who volunteer). One usher will be at the door to check people in, and one will be inside to help with socially distanced seating and exiting. After the service, the congregation will exit from back row to front – one row/family at a time.

**Managing bathrooms:** Instructional signs will be posted on the bathroom doors, social distancing markers will be in the hall, and guidelines will be included in bulletin. One person at a time.

**Post-service gathering:** Coffee Hour is suspended temporarily. Any gathering will require masks, social distancing, and should occur outside the building. Unfortunately, NO coffee or food can be provided.

**Recorded Services will continue.** We will continue to have a weekly recorded service available, with the link sent out via email on Saturday. Please remember, if you have any concerns about your health, or any possibility that you are not well, please stay at home and watch the recorded service.

Please feel free to call (610-247-5954) or email ([sandyreinhardt@msn.com](mailto:sandyreinhardt@msn.com)) with any questions.

Peace!

Sandy Reinhardt, Rector`s Warden (21 June 2020)