

PETER'S PENCE

The Saint Peter's Conway Newsletter

EXTRA

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it and it's time for us to prepare for Thanksgiving baskets. We are planning for 150 Thanksgiving baskets. Each basket costs approximately \$50. In the past we have gotten a discount on turkeys from Walmart Neighborhood Store, but since Covid-19 we have not been able to pre order groceries and get a discount price. Please consider donating to this much needed outreach program. You can donate by sending a check to Saint Peter's or you can donate online through Realm in the Food Pantry fund.



GETTING BACK TOGETHER

We're starting to re-gather on Sunday September 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtyard. We have space for about 60 people (more if families join). We'll add more services if demand requires. RESTROOMS will be available.

(Note: we try to keep these Peter's Pence lighthearted and informative. Given the complexity of re-gathering, this one is a bit dry. We promise to bring the humor back next time! Bear with us!)

COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan - Phase I: Information-Gathering, Communication, and Education



Covid Questionnaire

COVID-19 ACTIVE SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Within the last 14-days, have you experienced a new cough that you cannot attribute to another health condition? YES NO
2. Within the last 14-days, have you experienced new shortness of breath that you cannot attribute to another health condition? YES NO
3. Within the last 14-days, have you experienced a new sore throat that you cannot attribute to another health condition? YES NO
4. Within the last 14-days, have you experienced new muscle aches that you cannot attribute to another health condition or a specific activity such as physical exercise? YES NO
5. Within the last 14-days, have you had a temperature at or above 100.4° or the sense of having a fever? YES NO
6. Within the last 14 days, have you had close contact, without the use of appropriate PPE, with someone who is currently sick with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?* (Note: Close contact is defined as within 6 feet for more than 10 consecutive minutes) YES NO

How do I know if I am healthy enough to attend church?

Saint Peter's is using the COVID-19 questionnaire from the State of Washington (see sidebar) to help you determine if you are healthy enough to attend church in-person: Due to the nature of COVID-19, symptoms might not appear for up to two weeks, so it is important to rigorously check and re-check your health and those around you. If you are sick or are around someone who is sick, please remain at home and watch the pre-recorded versions of our services at our Facebook and Youtube pages

Is Saint Peter's/The Diocese providing safety equipment to the congregation?

We will have some surgical masks on hand if you forget to bring your own, but we are asking people to bring their own masks with them for each family member. As part of our COVID-19 education work, here are links to videos on how to properly wash/sanitize your hands (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYFWbwgf-2Q>) and how to properly put on and take off a mask (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etZK-GrUYgM>) so you can come to church ready for communal worship. We even have tips from a surgeon for properly fitting your mask if you wear glasses to keep them from fogging up (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mP33EaAEELo>).

We will have a Greeter at the Courtyard Gate with hand sanitizer, disposable masks, and a thermometer to take temperatures. A second Greeter will confirm contact information for members/visitors for contact tracing. An usher will take individuals/families to their assigned seats.

Additionally, we will be offering communion (wafers only at this time). Guidelines for safe dispersal of communion wafers have been provided by the Diocese.

What other measures are we taking before we re-open?

In addition to providing information for keeping you and your family members healthy, happy, and safe during this pandemic, Saint Peter's is taking a three-phased approach to re-opening

Phase 1 included Information-Gathering, Communication, and Education. Our COVID-19 Task Force has been researching how to clean surfaces to kill the virus while protecting surfaces and people in the process. We have met to share and compile our research and recommendations into communication and training to clean and maintain the buildings and grounds, and ways to share information with all our members and potential visitors.

Phase 2 (this phase) will include re-opening the courtyard and Parish Hall bathrooms for in-person gathering at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



The church office will be open 12-4 p.m. on Monday - Thursday. We will begin to explore offering outdoor worship opportunities on the church grounds as well as continue online opportunities for Small Groups, Anti-Racism Book Club, and Servant Leadership School and Wednesday Bible Study. Later in the Fall we will begin Confirmation/Reception preparation and mentoring.

The Revs Greg and Peggy will continue making home visits to outdoor areas (front porch/back yard) for worship and pastoral care. Visits to nursing homes and hospitals are still restricted by those institutions.

Phase 3 will include re-opening the Nave, Education Building, Parish Hall/Kitchen, and the Morgan House for Christian Formation and Social gatherings. We will also re-open the office for regular office hours with ability to assist those who request help from the church in-person rather than just over the phone.

Please note our ability to gather is dependent on the Covid-19 case rate in Faulkner County. If the recent declines reverse, we'll move back to only online worship.

What will worship look like in the Nave when we re-open in Phase 2?

Due to CDC recommendations for social distancing and the seating capacity of our Courtyard, we have determined we can safely seat 60-80 congregants with two worship leaders seated in the altar area for the worship service. We will start with one worship service at 9:00 am on Sunday, with the option of expanding services if demand requires it. We will also expand to a Wednesday evening service once we have Sunday working smoothly.

We will continue to offer a pre-recorded worship service for those who are not able to attend Sunday worship, with provision of communion at home by the Rector or Eucharistic Visitor by request via email at greg.warren@stpetersconway.com or peggy.cromwell@stpetersconway.com or by calling the church office at 501-329-8174. A link to the pre-recorded service will be available to view on Sunday.

Pre-registration online or by contacting the church office via phone/message for each worship service is needed to give everyone a chance to worship in the church, to give the Altar Guild and other servers exact count on Communion, and to provide contact tracing in case someone is later diagnosed as sick. You should have received an Event invitation in Realm for the September 6 service. If you did not or do not

use Realm, please call the office at 501 329 8174 and leave a message with the name(s) of the attendees and phone number(s). We'll make sure you're registered.

Worship bulletins and inserts will be placed in your seating area. Each person will take his or her bulletin and inserts home. Please help us ensure your health and safety by "entering" through the Courtyard gate after checking in and 'exiting' through the Courtyard Gate.

The bathrooms will be available for use in the Parish Hall. We will provide materials to allow you to sanitize surfaces after each visit. Please be considerate of your neighbor.

Instructions for receiving Communion in the Nave during COVID-19 Phase 2

For the foreseeable future, the procedure for worship services with Eucharist in the courtyard is as follows:

Each chair or seating area will have a number hanging from it as you enter the courtyard. An usher will direct you to and/or point out your seating. If you are a couple or family sitting together you will be seated in one of the seating areas together.

At the Passing of the Peace, we will stand and "throw each other a hug" or a "sacred bow" from our respective seats. Please do not exit your area to pass the Peace while in the Courtyard.

In case of rain, we will send a text message/call to the attendees informing them the service has been canceled; they will automatically be signed up for the next week's service unless they choose to opt out.

If you need to use the restroom before, during, or after the service – the Parish Hall restrooms will be open for use. Parents: please accompany children to the restrooms to make sure the touch surfaces are properly disinfected with a sanitizing wipe after each use for the next person.

What safety measures will the Priests and worship leaders be taking during services?

Our two Priests will sit on opposite sides of the outside 'altar' for the service. We will be unable to have a procession with the Cross and acolytes, in order to maintain proper social distancing measures. We will have a volunteer lector for the service. Readings will be shortened. All attendees will be given worship booklets with scripture readings included.

The officiating Priest will bless a separate paten with wafers for the congregation. It will be covered during the service. He/She will be the only one in the Altar area during the Eucharist Prayer. She/he will distribute the wafer to each congregant—please remain in your seating areas during the distribution. Per the Diocese, we are not able to serve wine at this time.

Why will we not be singing for the foreseeable future?

The CDC and other scientific institutions that have been studying COVID-19 transmission have noted that as singers and musicians project their voice or sound through their instruments, just as the sound waves travel, so do the moisture droplets from your mouth that can spread COVID-19 germs through the air further than the 6-10 feet recommended by normal social distancing measures. The most current recommendations are that we do not engage in group singing inside until there are better studies on how to do that safely, especially in enclosed spaces. As we offer an outdoor worship service, we will explore how to offer some form of singing in that setting.

How will donations be processed during these altered in-person services?

We will have an offering plate set up at up at the front of the Nave in the choir stall. If you want to give your donation by check you can drop it in when you come up enter or leave the courtyard (a collection plate will be next to the entrance), or you can give online through our website at <https://saintpetersconway.org/about-us/giving/>. Text giving is enabled, simply text **STPETERSCONWAY DONATE \$XX** to 73256 (where XX is the amount you'd like to donate). You'll be sent a link to complete your donation. You can use give via PAYPAL, just search for office@stpetersconway.com. Finally, you can mail your check to our office at 925 Mitchell Street, Conway AR 72034

If we need to contact the church about an issue or come into the office for something, what is the procedure for doing so?

Please call the church office and leave a message: 501 329 8174 or email greg.warren@stpetersconway.com or peggy.cromwell@stpetersconway.com, Greg or Peggy will return your call. If you come to the church office physically (for church business or an appointment), please sanitize your hands as you enter the office and have your mask on as you enter the lobby. Please log in your visit for contact tracing (a book if at the entrance). Let us know you are outside so that we can have our masks on and open the door to receive you. Otherwise, we request that people not come into the building unless absolutely necessary. We are still working on flood recovery repairs and prefer that you not trip over anything or interrupt work in process – unless you are here to help with flood recovery efforts! (See to-do list at the end)

Phase III: In-Church Gatherings and Christian Education

When will Saint Peter's re-open the rest of the buildings and grounds?

The Nave, Lobby, Parish Hall, Kitchen, Morgan House, and Christian Education wing will remain closed until at least October. We will begin working on ways to re-open these areas after we have successfully re-opened the Phase 2 area for worship.

Will the church be offering any Christian education opportunities this fall?

We will try! We are planning to offer an ongoing education opportunity this fall, including continuing the Tuesday Anti-Racism book club, the Wednesday afternoon Bible study, and small groups. We will continue with our Virtual Coffee Hour at Noon on Sundays. The log in information is below. Kelly Jeffus is working on EYC programming for the school year. Childcare is on hold until we safely re-gather in person.

As we move through the fall, we will communicate how we plan to gather in-person to share coffee, meals, and Christian education safely. We are also observing the various school systems in the area monitor their re-opening.

We will be sending out a survey periodically to discern the level of interest in providing in-person indoor worship services, Christian Formation, coffee hour, and pastoral support via videoconferencing. If you have an idea and/or talent to share, we welcome your willingness to volunteer your time, talent, and treasure to make your idea a reality for the people of Saint Peter's and the community.

When will we resume community gatherings like church lunches or large events?

There will be no church potlucks, dinners, or community gatherings for the foreseeable future unless we decide to have some sort of outdoor service where proper social distancing and safety measures can be followed, especially as it regards the free movement of the children in the congregation.

While our worship services and church life will not look the same as it did pre-COVID-19, even after implementing Phase III, we are confident that we can work to implement measures that will allow us to resume "normal" church activities. Thanks so much for your patience!

August Announcements

(VCH) Virtual Coffee Hour (virtualcoffeeshour@stpetersconway.com). Join us for 15-20 minutes of connection following Sunday services. (Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405624062?pwd=eIVVcDJLTjgvYVhzQUorRlFTOHZFUT09>) or email greg.warren@stpetersconway.com. Starts at Noon.

Virtual Prayer List: Add a name to our prayer list to be read at Sunday services. Link is <https://saintpetersconway.org/prayers-of-the-people/> or email peggy.cromwell@stpetersconway.com

Servant Leadership School (SLS). The group is exploring Fall program

ideas. Contact Judy Helm for information.

Anti-Racism Book Club (greg.warren@stpetersconway.com)—Meets pm. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405624062?pwd=eIVVcDJLTjgvYVhzQUorRIFTOHZFUT09>. We are selecting a new

Virtually Tuesday nights 6-7
book to read together

August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 HE II 11 am VCH: Noon	3 EP 6 pm	4 Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	5 EP 6 pm	6 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	7 EP 6 pm	8
9 HE II 11 am VCH: Noon	10 EP 6 pm	11 VVBS Book Club 6pm C-line 8pm	12 VVBS EP 6 pm	13 VVBS SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	14 EP 6 pm	15 Food Pantry 9-11 am
16 HE II 11 am VCH: Noon	17 EP 6 pm	18 Book Club 6pm Compline 8pm	19 EP 6 pm	20 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	21 EP 6 pm	22
23 HE II 11 am VCH: Noon	24 EP 6 pm	25	26 EP 6 pm	27 SLS 6pm C-line 8pm	28 EP 6 pm	29
30 HE II 11 am VCH: Noon Vestry 1 pm	31 EP 6 pm					

The Results are in: You are Team Madelyn!

It was a landslide: Madelyn 35 votes; Jerry 7 votes (she even won the Electoral College!)

Team Madelyn

Vote for Madelyn cause she's guaranteed to make you laugh.



Team Jerry

Choose team Jerry because you know he's got the goods to get you to smile.

