



THE Cornerstone

June 2020

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church
107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

Where We Are Now

Dear Parishioners:

If we can recall those bygone days in a shopping mall, one would encounter the mall layout plans that say: "You Are Here." As I write to you, I am providing as best as I can the "You are Here" of St. Peter's Church in this pandemic. The guidelines and plans that I wish to share are of necessity subject to change as Diocesan and NYS mandates evolve. Inside your Newsletter, you will find the Guidelines of the Diocese. Those mandates could be expanded in the future. I have also included a link to the most recent directives from NYS on religious observances. These two documents warrant careful reading by us all. We will be following these two directives as good citizens and members of the Diocese.

But firstly, I pray that you are well and staying safe. You are precious to the Lord and to me. Life truly is a gift of God to be handled with reverence and care. As I said shortly before we closed the church building, the Coronavirus is not a test of our faith. We are not standing before Caesar making the Good Confession. We are in a pandemic. I mention this because it is pastorally important. We have every right in the Lord to take care of our health as we endeavor to fulfill our various callings in this new terrain of Covid-19.

There are many who have been called in this time to make great sacrifices for the common good. These people are to be honored and supported in every way. Our support includes not putting them at greater risk than necessary and by doing our part to keep others well. As a matter of simple Christian charity, we also need to respect others in their efforts to stay well. It is common courtesy not to challenge the boundaries of others. I want especially here to emphasize that no member of the parish should feel pressure to return to any church activity that he or she deems inadvisable personally or for the family. You have my full support in any decision that you make to stay well.

As your rector, I am charged with your welfare in soul and body. We have a congregation of many ages and conditions of health. What we do affects others in this time. I know that views of the needed precautions differ among us. It is my intention to follow Diocesan and NYS mandates in an effort to secure "best practices" to keep you safe. This will mean that I will need to enforce rules. I take no joy in this responsibility. It is simply that we are only as safe as we are compliant.

Before I begin with a new initiative for worship, I want to say how proud I have been of this congregation. You have shown great love to one another. I cannot count the number of people who have been touched by your letters, phone calls, community service, and support in running errands. Many of you have helped others become "up to speed" in the technology that we have been using of late. Our beloved Neil Keen has astonished us by his artful work on our video Services. Many are remarking that they have seen things in the church that they have never previously noticed. This is thanks to Neil's wonderful eye for beauty and meaning. I am grateful to him and to all who have volunteered to do Scripture readings. It is not always a smooth process to record and send! I assure you that what might look effortless on tape is often an ordeal. But God has been very good to us in making this work.

This online work has not escaped the notice of the Bishop. He is encouraging the churches to continue to offer this mode of worship as a pastoral outreach and an evangelism tool. The churches of the Diocese have risen to the occasion. The Holy Spirit has indeed come down!

As I read through the Guidelines and NYS mandates, I believe that we are ready to take a step forward. Ten is the “indoor” maximum now allowed by the Diocese and NYS. This would include the clergy and any other liturgical participants. Considerable cleaning is required following worship. Sanitizing of the hands of clergy and worshipers on arrival and before Holy Communion as well as masks are required.

My sense of urgency is for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It has been a long time since we have received the precious gift of Christ Himself. The liturgy of the Word has been addressed with good result in our online worship, which will continue. The Bishop has also made provision for “parking lot” or lawn Services. Unfortunately, we do not have a parking lot. I am in discussion with colleagues about what might be possible in another location. What I propose for now is the following, ***commencing June 14th***:

1. Commencing **June 14th**, there will be **a single** 10:30AM Sunday Service of Holy Communion at the Church. **We will enter through the Garden Gate. You will need to reserve your place by calling the Parish Office. The limit will be 9 worshipers.** Strict Social distancing of at least six feet and masks will be required at all times. Sanitizers will be used when entering and at Holy Communion. Families may sit together if domiciled together.
2. **Commencing June 17th**, we will offer Holy Communion in the backyard of the Rectory on Wednesdays at Noon. This service is limited to 9 worshipers. Masks must be worn and strict social distancing of at least 6 feet will be required at all times. We will take reservations via the Church Office. Please leave a message along with the best number to reach you. Ruth will return your call and schedule your Wednesday Service.
3. As mandated, there will be no Coffee Hour or Choir, The Services will be spoken without hymns. Your masked clergy will rejoice to see you.
4. Given summer attendance, we should be able to reach everyone between these two Services every 4- 5 weeks. This is especially true as many will still elect to stay home for health reasons.
5. Based on response, I may increase the number of Services. **The important thing is to register in advance.** I do not wish to turn anybody away, but we need to maintain good order and size.
6. **If you have special health concerns**, the clergy can make private arrangements for you to receive Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at another time in an outdoor setting or in your car. This would occur at the Rectory and use the Service provided in the Prayer Book. Masks must still be worn.

Nothing is perfect in a time such as this. Fortunately, we are in the summer now and things tend to slow down a bit in church anyway. The good weather should support our plan well.. Let’s give this approach a try and see how things go. In the meantime, keep the love for one another going in the glorious ways that you have been doing. We are in God’s time. We are in God’s hands. Our church is holding strong. We will be together again in our lovely Sanctuary. Faith. Trust. Peace. God is good and is with us.

Faithfully, Fr. Hartt+



From the Associate Rector

I think, like most of you, I'm beginning to experience hope. The weather is warming, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, the flowers are growing; there are signs of hope all around us, not to mention that our shelter-in-place has begun lifting here in upstate NY with the Phase I reopening...and hope for more to come.

Hope brings relief to fears and doubts and also brings the experience of joy. Hope is a great thing. Hope, while great, also requires faith because it believes in what has not yet been fully realized...it is forward looking. Yes, spring has sprung, reopening has started, yet we all hope for even more. What we hope for, as the body of Christ, is to gather again, to worship in person again, to sing again, and to partake in Holy Communion again. The Greek word for "church", actually means assembly. Yes, we truly hope to assemble again.

Hope believes that good things will come in their due time. We must continue to hope in our ability to fully express our faith and life in Jesus Christ; that full expression including being together; assembling together again. Today we hold hope in this.

Who would have thought that we would experience Holy Week, Easter Day, the entire Easter season and even Pentecost apart from one another, apart from worship, apart from the normative ways we experience these holy moments? Many have seemed to lose track of time. I'm only reminded daily of how much time has passed when I post my daily Morning Prayer video sessions. I always label them with the date, both functional and liturgical. To do so, I have had to refer to my watch which tells me what the date actually is. Typing 1 Easter, then 2 and so on all through the 7th week of Easter is heartbreaking every day. It is an exercise that daily reminds me that we still live in hope, because our in-gatherings haven't begun yet.

And so hope is joyful, with a bit of sadness rolled in. Joyful because we believe in what will be realized. Sad because we aren't quite there yet. Hope is the Great Easter message. And, the times we are living in are so poignant in pointing this out. 2,000 years after Jesus' Resurrection, we still live in the hope of his promise: that God's Kingdom will fully come to earth as it is in heaven. This COVID-19 Pandemic is a stark reminder that hasn't happened yet, it is what we still hope in.

Maybe the timing of the shutdown from the pandemic, beginning right before Holy Week and continuing through Easter and Pentecost, shouldn't be lost on us as Christians. There are many parallels for us to draw on. The uncertainty, mystery, fear that creeps in, lamentation, boredom while we wait, frustration even as we hope...we have all experienced these feelings these past few months. These are also "feelings" Christians experience while we await "Thy Kingdom Come..."

We are uncertain how much longer we must wait. We are unsure of exactly what is happening. We let our doubts and fears get the best of us sometimes. We miss our old lives even as imperfect as they were. We realize that these pandemic times aren't activity charged like in the movies, but a bit boring with long periods of just watching and waiting. We watch the news every day for signs of relief. Yes, I'm referring to our awaiting the Easter promise of "Thy Kingdom Come..."

When God's Kingdom comes fully realized on earth, we will be living the fullness of Easter joy. We will experience perfect living, There will be confidence, happiness and joy. Absent will be sickness, sin, grief, mourning, and even waiting...these will be no more. Hope will be realized. Sounds great, eh?

Well, that is what is promised to us, that which we hope in. Yes, Hope is the great Easter message and is so very poignant as we hope today for our lives and our faith expression to return to some sense of normalcy. But, remember, that what we truly hope in is beyond normalcy to even perfection. Let's keep that Easter hope alive!

Wishing you and yours health, happiness and Easter joy and hope as we begin this season of Pentecost. I'm praying that we are all together very soon.

With Blessings, Mother Sue+



For Your Information

Sunday Service Videos

Every Sunday a filmed Sunday Service from inside St. Peter's Church with Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Sue is available for your viewing. Each service also contains music from the St. Peter's Choir. Every Sunday, St. Peter's parishioners are emailed the YouTube video link for that day's service through a Constant Contact email from the church. Each video is also published on the church website on Sunday morning for that day as well as on the St. Peter's Church Facebook page. The leaflet and readings for each Sunday are also available on the church website as well. Click on the "Info Center" tab then click on "Weekly Leaflet" or "Weekly Readings" and then click on the appropriate date for each. Both the leaflet and readings can be printed out so that you may follow along with the service.

CROP HUNGER WALK

The Albany CROP Walk thanks all who walked in their own neighborhoods on May 3rd to join the fight against hunger, and especially those who donated this year. Total funds raised have recently exceeded \$81,339.35. Donations still accepted through June 15th. Donations can be sent to: CACC, 646 State Street, Albany, NY 12203

If you would like to donate or learn more, please visit: crophungerwalk.org/albanyny/

Thank you again for supporting this year's CROP Walk!



St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, June 20th ~ 11:00am to 1:00pm

We will be at the soup kitchen every third Saturday to serve take out meals and goodie bags full of fruit, veggies and toilet paper.

We packaged 151 take-out meals on May 16th, and had enough fresh apples, peanut butter and pasta to donate to the South End's Kids Café. ♥



There in every memory
See his love and care
Strength and hands to count on
Freely he does share
Provider, toil so faithfully
To make our dreams come true
Give strong and tender discipline
Though it is hard to do
A Father is God's chosen one
To lead the family
And point it to His will for life
Of love and harmony...

Happy Father's Day to all Dads



fresh foods from
small farms™



Field Goods has transitioned to CONTACTLESS HOME DELIVERIES with Great response. People love getting nutritious food dropped off at their home! When you order home delivery and use the discount code **FOODPANTRY** at checkout, you will receive \$10 off your order and Field Goods will make a \$10 contribution to The Food Pantries For the Capital District. Just click on the link: [\\$10 for You, \\$10 for the Pantry page](#). Have fun shopping for farm fresh produce, dairy, meat and grocery items from local food companies and raising money for a food pantry.

And don't forget to use the discount code
FOODPANTRY

Field Goods bringing a little joy to folks with their friendly delivery of fresh, local food and the knowledge that they are supporting people in need.

Be still
AND
Know
THAT I AM
With you
- PSALM 146:10



Compassion

Dear Beaver Cross Family,

It is with much sadness and a heavy heart that I must inform you that we have made the decision to cancel our in-person summer programming at Beaver Cross for the 2020 season. I am sure that you can imagine that this is a difficult decision and is not one that has been arrived at lightly. The Camp Leadership Team have spent much time reviewing the materials presented by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the State Health Department (NYSDoH), and the American Camp Association (ACA) and after much discussion, and for the safety and well being of all of our families, campers, and staff, have reached this decision that offering in-person programming would not offer a spiritual or enjoyable experience. Beaver Cross just wouldn't be Beaver Cross this summer. Camp is about seeing friends from all over the state and beyond, having real conversations with your peers about what's been happening in your life, playing wacky and ridiculous games, challenging yourself and trying new stuff, praying together with peers, and learning more about God and his Word in a fully immersed experience away from worries and stresses and the concerns of the world.

Beaver Cross is not a place and it is not a physical location but it's a community. A community to celebrate with in times of joy and a community to hold each other up in times of sorrow. We can still come together as a Community in Christ this summer even if we can't meet in person. The Diocesan Youth Ministry, beginning July 6th, will be offering daily Christian content in the form of live streams, virtual campfires, online escape rooms, live program sessions, and much more! Our website has been updated and in the coming weeks will be updated further with more and more programming options. Parishes will be receiving shortly an overview of content that can be shared with your congregations and all programming will be free of charge.

Let us join together and not let the cancelling of in-person programming allow us to forget the important privilege we have of ministering to the young people in our communities. Please also hold Beaver Cross campers, staff, and volunteers in your prayers. If you would like to reach out to me, please do not hesitate to do so.

Yours in Christ

Daniel Hyde

Beaver Cross Ministries Director

(518) 692 -9550 ext. 114

dhyde@ctkcenter

Summer Programming 2020

Continue to Build Community in Christ this summer by joining Beaver Cross and its partners with a variety of content suited for children of all ages. Head to our website: <https://www.beavercrossministries.org/summer-programming.html> for more information. We'll be offering live programs and events each day beginning July 6th!

This week's spotlight: Camp In A Box

Everyone loves mail and who doesn't love mail from Beaver Cross?! Sign up now to receive a camp-in-a-box directly to your door. Two boxes are available: 5-12 years old and 13 years plus.

Each box contains:

3 x teaching sessions

3 x activities to do around your home

3 x craft sessions with supplies

1 x piece of Beaver Cross swag

Dinner table conversation starters

Friendship bracelet string to send to a friend

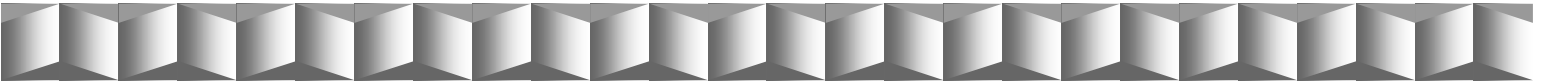


Con GRAD ulations !

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2019-2020 GRADUATES

HANNAH WEIR TUCKER graduated from Sacred Heart University with a Bachelor in Exercise Science Degree. She continues her education at Sacred Heart University pursuing a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. (Hannah is the granddaughter of Diana Martin).

VICTORIA WALDRON graduated from The State University of New York Albany with a Master of Science in Information Science Degree. She continues her education pursuing a Master of Arts in History Degree in SUNY Albany's dual degree program.



New Date Set for Bishop Love's Hearing

"The Episcopal Church vs. The Rt. Rev. William H. Love"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently received word that a new date has been set for my Hearing / Trial: The Episcopal Church vs. The Rt. Rev. William H. Love. It is scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2020, starting at 9:00 a.m. EST. It is not expected to last beyond 5:00 p.m. that same day. The Hearing will be conducted through a Zoom Meeting format.

I have been told by the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely, Convener of the Hearing Panel, that given the technology being used, "we will be able to have many people watch the Hearing if they desire." Unfortunately, the exact details regarding how observers can watch the Hearing have not yet been revealed. Once we have received that information, it will be shared with the Diocese of Albany and wider community. Please note that while the Canons require that the Hearing be "open" to the public, it is under the control and direction of the Hearing Panel.

I want to thank all of you who have been holding me and my family and the Diocese of Albany up in your prayers these past many months. It is greatly appreciated and means more than you know. Whatever the outcome of the Hearing, my prayer is that God's will and purpose will be accomplished.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

+Bill

The Rt. Rev. William H. Love
Bishop of Albany

PATIENCE

VIRTUES

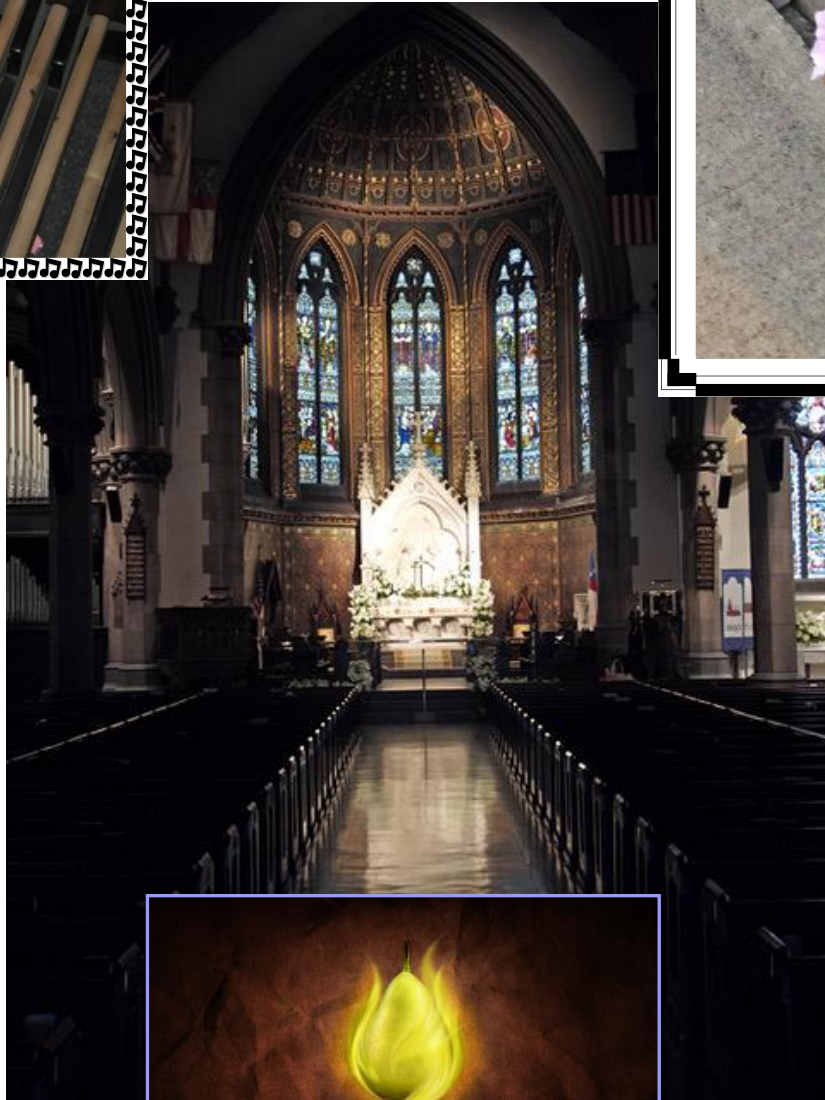
FORTITUDE

FAITH
HOPE
CHARITY



Integrity
Kindness
Love
Optimism
Perseverance
Prudence
Responsibility
Respect
Temperance
Trust

Accountability
Courage
Consideration
Compassion
Commitment
Empathy
Gratitude
Honor
Honest
Peace



June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin	2	3
7 First Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday See Website for Video on You Tube	8	9	10
14 Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am - Holy Communion <u>PRIOR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</u> 10 person Limit Per NYS Mandate (See Page 2 of the Newsletter) See Website for Video on You Tube	15	16	17 12:00pm - Holy <u>PRIOR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</u> 10 person Limit Per NYS Mandate (See Page 2 of the Newsletter)
21 Third Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day 10:30am - Holy Communion <u>PRIOR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</u> 10 person Limit Per NYS Mandate (See Page 2 of the Newsletter) See Website for Video on You Tube	22	23	24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist 12:00pm - Holy Communion <u>PRIOR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</u> 10 person Limit Per NYS Mandate (See Page 2 of the Newsletter)
28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am - Holy Communion <u>PRIOR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</u> 10 person Limit Per NYS Mandate (See Page 2 of the Newsletter) See Website for Video on You Tube	29 The Apostles Saint Peter & Saint Paul	30	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4	5	6
	11 Saint Barnabas the Apostle	12	13
Communion at the Rectory <u>ACTIONS REQUIRED</u> Per NYS Mandate (of the Newsletter)	18	19	20 11am - Angels in Training
Activity of the Baptist Communion at the Rectory <u>ACTIONS REQUIRED</u> Per NYS Mandate (of the Newsletter)	25	26	27
			

A Word of Encouragement and Diocesan Guidelines for Parishes During the Coronavirus Pandemic



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Acknowledging the importance of people being able to once again worship together in their faith communities, both the federal and state governments have (with certain restrictions) lifted the ban on public worship services. As a result, after consulting with the clergy and many of the lay leaders of the Diocese, as well as a great deal of thought, prayer and research, I have authorized the reopening of church buildings throughout the Diocese of Albany provided certain diocesan guidelines are followed during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Before outlining the diocesan guidelines, I would like to take just a moment to talk about potential pastoral concerns associated with reopening our Church buildings. First, given the current NY State restriction limiting group gatherings inside church buildings to 10 persons or less (regardless of the size of the building), it is important for parishes to be pastorally sensitive as they devise a plan for public services constricted by the 10 person limit. With the possible exception of our smallest parishes, not everyone will be able to worship together at one time, so multiple services may be needed on Sunday, or spread throughout the week. The challenge will be coming up with an equitable system that allows those who want to attend Church to do so.

Parishes may want to investigate the website (setmore.com) to assist them with scheduling people for their church services. Hopefully the 10 person limit for indoor services will be lifted soon. Until then, however, especially during the warmer months, parishes may want to consider doing an outdoor service, which requires social distancing, but is not constrained by the 10 person rule, thus allowing for more people.

A second pastoral concern (apart from the 10 person limit) has to do with the fact that not everyone is in the same place, or has the same understanding of how best to move forward with public worship services during the Coronavirus Pandemic. I know many of us are anxious to get back to church as quickly as possible, while others of us are not yet ready to physically join in public worship. Please know that whichever group you find yourself in is fine.

No one should feel pressured to return to Church before they are ready, nor should those who want to return right away be seen as uncaring or unconcerned about spreading the Coronavirus. There are safe ways for us to come back to church if we work together. We each have different physical, mental and spiritual needs, all of which are important and need to be met as best we can, given the environment we find ourselves in and the various governmental restrictions we are faced with. May God give each of us the patience and grace we need to show Christian love and charity to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of one's views concerning when and how to reopen our churches. We cannot afford to allow the coronavirus to divide us.

Similarly, not all parishes are in the same place regarding when and how they (as a parish) should reopen. The fact that a parish may reopen its doors for public worship, does not mean that it must reopen at this time. There may be parishes in the Diocese whose clergy and lay leaders decide not to reopen their buildings right away given the ongoing potential threat from the Coronavirus and the governmental regulations and diocesan guidelines. They may choose to wait until things calm down a bit more and some of the current restrictions are lifted. The clergy, wardens and vestry in each parish will need to work together in deciding whether this is the time to reopen, or whether to wait. Please inform the Bishop's office of whatever decision is made.

For those parishes that are ready to begin preparing to reopen, a set of diocesan guidelines has been established to help ensure that we provide as safe an environment as reasonably possible for our parishioners and visitors to come together to worship and serve God. While the basic guidelines set forth by the Diocese must be followed by all parishes, individual parishes may choose to add additional parish guidelines to meet their unique circumstances. With that said, no matter how hard we try, there is no way to guarantee 100% that someone might not be exposed to the coronavirus while at church. It is important that we trust God and do our best to provide both a safe environment as well as a meaningful ministry and worship experience for those entrusted to our care.

One of our greatest defenses against the coronavirus is to understand how it spreads. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the coronavirus' primary mode of transmission is believed to be through the aerosolization of respiratory droplets spread from an infected person to others in close contact around them, by sneezing, coughing, singing, or talking at close range. It is for that reason that the government recommends and in certain situations mandates that masks be worn when in public. The purpose of the mask is not so much to filter the air we are breathing, but rather to keep infected people from spewing droplets into the air around them.

While there are a few exceptions such as when someone sneezes or coughs, in most cases aerosolized droplets will not travel more than a few feet before dropping to the ground. Unfortunately in a heavily congested area, that is more than enough space for an infected person to contaminate those around them. That is why social distancing is so important during this pandemic. The CDC recommends keeping a distance of at least six feet from others outside one's home and immediate family.

According to the CDC website, while aerosolized droplets are the primary source of transmission, people can become infected through other means such as "touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. As a precaution, the CDC recommends regularly cleaning and sanitizing common areas frequented by others as well as practicing good hygiene by thoroughly washing one's hands or using hand sanitizers. Scientific studies have shown that in an ideal situation, COVID-19 can survive on metal or other hard surfaces for up to 72 hours, and for up to 24 hours on cardboard or other porous surfaces.

The diocesan guidelines for the reopening of churches (outlined below), are based primarily on recommendations from the CDC as well as government mandated regulations. They outline the basics of what is needed during this pandemic to help keep our parishioners and visitors safe while worshipping and serving God in our parishes. Each parish has the responsibility of implementing them in the way that best meets the needs and circumstances of the parish. This is not the sole responsibility of the clergy, but rather the whole parish working together.

It is my hope and prayer that in the not too distant future, the potential threat from the coronavirus will be significantly reduced and we can then ease up, if not totally eliminate many of the following guidelines. For the time being, however, it is important that we follow them, not so much out of a sense of obligation, but rather as an act of love for one another. As Jesus so perfectly demonstrated on the cross, one's love for others, often requires sacrifices on our part.

The personal sacrifices or inconveniences we endure during the Coronavirus Pandemic, may very well be the thing that not only protects ourselves, but even more importantly our loved ones from contracting COVID-19. As stated by the CDC, "The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus." The following diocesan guidelines will help us in that quest. Everyone's cooperation in fighting the coronavirus as we come back together in our home parishes is greatly appreciated and needed. By the grace and mercy of God, and everyone's hard work, we will get through this.

Guidelines to be Followed by All Churches in the Diocese of Albany During the Coronavirus Pandemic

- 1) Attitude is important. COVID-19 needs to be taken seriously, but we don't need to live in fear. To the degree possible, we need to be proactive, rather than reactive to the coronavirus. Plan ahead.
- 2) At all times when gathering for worship, or carrying out ministry within the Church during the pandemic, keep in mind how the coronavirus spreads and take appropriate precautions to guard against becoming infected or possibly infecting others.

- 3) Clear, respectful signs informing people of the expectation and requirement of wearing masks, social distancing, and the use of hand sanitizer (all outlined below), as well as other necessary instructions, need to be posted near all entrance doors of the Church and other prominent locations.
- 4) If people (to include the clergy) are not feeling well, running a fever, coughing, etc., or have been in contact with someone known to have the coronavirus (even if not showing symptoms), they should not attend Church, until they are well, or have completed self-quarantine. This is for their sake and everyone else's.
- 5) The following sign or something similar will be posted by each entrance door to the Church or worship area:

ATTENTION:

Dear Friends, If you answer YES to any of the following, we ask that you NOT Attend Church today:

- **Have a temperature of 100.4 or higher**
- **Lost your sense of taste or smell**
- **You or someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19**
- **Have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19**
-

**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.
The health and wellbeing of everyone is dependent on it.
May The Lord Bless You and Keep You Safe!**

- 6) All inside services must abide by the current government mandated group size of 10 people or less per service. Multiple services are authorized, provided the worship space is cleaned properly between services, or seating is alternated to avoid potential cross contamination between one service and the other. Please note that the current mandated group size may be changed by the government with little to no warning. We will need to adjust accordingly. God willing, the 10 person limit will be lifted soon.
- 7) Appropriate cleaning and disinfecting agents (for the surface being cleaned) will be used. Common areas such as bathrooms as well as often touched items such as door knobs, light switches, handrails, etc...need to be cleaned on a regular basis. The NYS Dept. of Health or CDC websites can provide some guidance.
- 8) All inside services must provide adequate space for safe social distancing of at least six feet between individuals or family groups.
- 9) Outside services to include lawn and parking lot services may be held. Larger groups than 10 are authorized, provided each individual or family group maintains safe social distancing of at least 6 feet or more from one another. Parked cars must be six feet from one another if people are sitting in them with windows rolled down for the service.
- 10) The congregation for both indoor and outdoor services must wear masks. The Church will need to have a supply of disposable masks available for anyone who doesn't bring their own mask with them.
- 11) The clergy must wear masks when in close proximity to others, to include, the Processional, distribution of communion, and Recessional. Parishes may want to suspend the Processional and Recessional during this time to reduce the number of acolytes and others needed in the Altar Party, and thus cut down on congestion in the sanctuary. Unfortunately, the sanctuaries in many of our churches are not large enough to provide the necessary space needed for social distancing during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- 12) The celebrant is NOT required to wear a mask while at the altar, provided they are by themselves and the bread and wine are covered with a linen or pall. Nor are the clergy required to wear a mask while proclaiming the Gospel or preaching, provided they are at least 10 feet away from the nearest person. The Gospel should be proclaimed from the front of the Church instead of the aisle as is customary in many parishes.

- 13) Hand sanitizer must be used by all people when they first arrive at Church and again right before going to receive communion, for indoor services. For outdoor services (where parishioners bring their own chairs), hand sanitizer is only needed just prior to receiving communion. I recommend each parish have someone assigned to hold the container of hand sanitizer as each person has the cleaning agent poured in their hands. This person must use the hand sanitizer first before helping others. They must also wear a mask and stand an arm lengths distance from the person they are ministering to.
- 14) Altar guild members and clergy must thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before setting the altar. Clergy must also clean their hands with hand sanitizer before distributing communion.
- 15) Communion will be received in only one kind (the host/bread). It will be placed in the hand of the recipient, not on their tongue. Care needs to be taken when placing the host in the person's hand in order not to physically touch them. I would ask that communion wafers be used, rather than other forms of bread. The celebrant will consume the consecrated wine on behalf of the people. Individual communion cups with wine for the congregation are NOT authorized.
- 16) Communion will be received while standing (not kneeling), preferably at the head of the center aisle, or it may be taken to people while in their pews or seats. It is important to maintain appropriate social distancing while people come to receive communion. Communion may be distributed to people sitting in their vehicles during parking lot services. Clergy should not bend over into the vehicle to distribute communion, but rather individuals should place their hands outside the car window to receive.
- 17) For those requesting a blessing rather than communion, blessings will be offered over the person while not physically touching the head of the person being blessed.
- 18) If there are any baptisms, the clergy must cleanse their hands with hand sanitizer before and after the baptism as well as wear a mask. The Baptismal water will be poured outside following the service. It will not be saved for use as Holy Water.
- 19) The Peace will need to be shared by means other than personal physical contact. Handshakes and hugs are not allowed at this time.
- 20) Choirs are not allowed at this time, due to social distancing requirements. One or two people may lead the music, provided they are at least 10 feet away from anyone around them. Some congregations may opt not to allow singing during the coronavirus pandemic. The wearing of masks by the congregation should help reduce the potential of spreading respiratory droplets while singing.
- 21) Lectors may remove their masks while reading the lessons, provided they are at least 10 feet from anyone in front of them. If the church space doesn't allow for proper distancing, the lectors need to wear masks.
- 22) The collection plate should not be passed, but rather be placed in a location that parishioners may access to make their offering.
- 23) The bread and wine should be placed on the credence table by the altar guild prior to the start of the service, and not brought up at the time of the offertory.
- 24) Congested areas need to be avoided, especially as people are trying to enter or leave the Church, as well as the communion line and other times when people tend to bunch up. Again, social distancing is very important. Clergy may stand to the side following the service (out of the flow of traffic) if someone needs to speak to them.
- 25) If possible (especially during the warmer weather) keep the windows and doors of the Church open to improve air circulation with fresh outside air.
- 26) To cut down on potential cross contamination, parishes may want to print out the service for everyone to have their own copy, or use overhead projections if they have the means of doing so, as an alternative to the use of Prayer Books and Hymnals. If Prayer Books and Hymnals are used, they will need to be sanitized if they are to be used again within three days (the potential life expectancy of the virus on objects).
- 27) Holy water fonts must be emptied and removed.

- 28) There will be no coffee hours or other social gatherings at church during the time of the pandemic. Many parishes are hosting “virtual coffee hours” that are going well and have been well received as an alternative to in-person coffee hours. Worship together at Church and then go home and visit one another online in the safety of your home, having a cup of coffee or tea and a dessert.
- 29) In-person Vacation Bible School is not permitted this summer due to the inability to maintain appropriate social distancing among kids. Parishes might consider an online version of VBS.
- 30) In-person Sunday School and Youth Group meetings are suspended until the fall, at which time a determination will be made based on the status of COVID-19.
- 31) All outside groups using Church property must practice social distancing, wear masks, use hand sanitizer when they arrive, and follow any other guidelines required by the parish during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- 32) Unless social distancing requirements can be met, Vestry meetings and other church committees or groups need to be conducted via Zoom or by some other online means.
- 33) Virtual online, recorded and live-stream services should be continued if possible, even after in-person services resume. Not everyone is able to return to church at this time and countless others who we have not effectively reached before, are now being ministered to in very powerful and life changing ways. Keep up the good work!

Everyone’s cooperation with these guidelines is greatly appreciated and needed, if we are to provide a safe environment within each of our Churches, for our parishioners and visitors to come and worship our Heavenly Father and Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God bless each of us richly, as we gather in His name, and go forth offering ourselves as a channel of His love and mercy and healing grace during this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Faithfully in Christ,

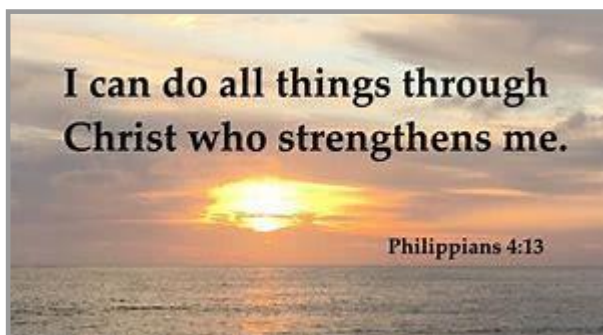
+Bill

Rt. Rev. William H. Love
Bishop of Albany

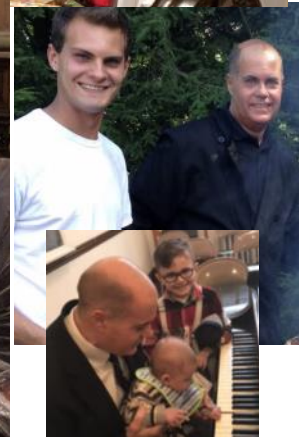
Here is the link to the referenced NYS Mandates:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/ReligiousandFuneralServicesMasterGuidance.pdf>

Also included on the St. Peter’s Church Website!



MEMORIES



Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Troiano.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison.....Director of Christian Education
Ian Mike.....Sexton
James P. Shortall.....Assistant Sexton
Ruth Manss.....Office Manager
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

James Chenot.....Senior Warden
Deborah Spath.....Junior Warden
George Scala.....Treasurer

Ashley Closson, Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon,
Fred Hershey, Maria Holden, Mark Lundberg,
Tim Murphy, Jeff Russom

How to Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday -Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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E-Mail:

Receptionist@stpeterschurchalbany.org

Website:

www.stpeterschurchalbany.org

Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

