Rev. Dr. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson, Pastor Rev. Lindsay Anderson-Beck, Associate Pastor

 May 21, 2021

Dear Allentown Presbyterian Church Family,

In Psalm 122, David writes, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” We are so very glad to let you know that on **Sunday June 6**, we will be returning to live, in-person worship in our sanctuary. There will be one service at **9:30 am**, and you are invited to join us!

This decision has been reached carefully and in consultation with our APC staff, COVID-19 Protocol Team, and Session. This past Tuesday evening, Session voted to approve our return to live worship on June 6. With vaccination rates increasing and infection rates falling both in New Jersey and nationwide, we feel secure that we can return to live worship safely at this time. We truly cannot wait to be together again to worship God as a church family in our sanctuary.

Some important details:

* **Masks and physical distancing of 6 feet** are required inside the sanctuary
* Only **families or “pods”** may sit together in a pew
* For the first few weeks at least, we ask you to **pre-register online** so that we know how many people to expect
* Our max capacity in the sanctuary is between **80-100 people** depending on family units; if we reach that capacity, we will open overflow seating in **Schulte Hall**
* Our worship director, Enoch, will be singing from the piano, but **we will not be encouraging congregational singing**
* **Children will not come forward** during the children’s message
* Post-worship fellowship will happen **outdoors** in the gravel parking area alongside our cemetery
* There will be **no food or drink**

For those who do not feel comfortable returning to in-person yet, or are unable to worship with us in-person for any other reason, don’t fear! We will be **livestreaming** our worship from the sanctuary online each Sunday, beginning June 6. You will still be able to find the video on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and Church Online Platform, and now you will be able to worship with us in real-time! We are very grateful to our tech team for helping make this happen, and we look forward to continuing to worship with you online.

Our Protocol Team will continue to monitor new developments - either of the virus or of the New Jersey state guidelines - and recommend any adjustments to what we are doing in response. This has been a difficult season for all of us, and we are hoping and praying that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Please reach out to Lizzy Gray with any questions or concerns: lizzy@allentownpresbyterian.org, and fill out the pre-registration form for worship here:

[apc.breezechms.com/form/back2APC](http://apc.breezechms.com/form/back2APC).

With great anticipation,

Stephen Heinzel-Nelson and Lindsay Anderson-Beck