



Park United Methodist Church

Joseph J. Pascoe, Lead Pastor

"Reaching the Heart of the Community  *with the Heart of Christ!"*

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Greetings Family and Friends!

I pray this letter finds you and your family well. We have been praying for you since the COVID19 outbreak began. I want you to know that I have been anxiously waiting since March 23rd to share this letter with you! I long to worship our Lord together in person again and to see each of you! I am writing to make you aware of what Park Church will be doing to re-start for worship together!

Your safety, and the safety of all, is of utmost importance to us. That is why we made the very difficult decision to worship from homes all around the world together for the last several weeks. As you hopefully are aware, the restrictions in NYS are being lifted by regions, and as soon as our region is cleared to go we want to be able to do so. In compliance with the guidelines from the CDC and NYS, along with the guidelines from the UNYUMC, we have mapped out a 3 phase re-start plan. As you will see, it is a progression process, but one we are confident will provide safety and security for all.

I would also like to make everyone aware that our live stream services are now a regular option for weekly worship. If you or a family member are in an at risk category, or if you simply aren't comfortable coming back yet, we treasure the fact that we can still worship together through the live stream. If you aren't feeling well on a Sunday morning, please worship with us via live stream from your home. Our team, including myself, will also be following this model of safety for everyone. We have said several times over the years and want to reiterate it again now, knowing the excitement some are experiencing with the idea of coming back together - if you do not feel safe coming to church, it's OK.

There are some things that will look different moving forward into the foreseeable future. We will continue to actively sanitize the worship space and all high traffic touch points on Sundays, with a deep clean of the church throughout the week. Hand sanitizer will be available and encouraged at the entry of the building and throughout the building. Print materials will be available online only for you to print or refer to if you so desire. Our coffee time, when it begins again in phase 3, will be available at the coffee station with servers assisting for a pleasant and friendly experience!

With all that being said, here are the proposed phases!

Phase One: Outdoor Drive-In Weekly Vespers Service!

- We will begin these drive-in services on Wednesday 5/27/2020 @ 7pm.
- Parking lot will open at 6:30.
- We will worship together as one body, for one service, at the Sinclairville Campus.
- All regulations for drive-in theaters will need to be maintained.
- No entry into the building will be allowed during this phase. This includes no restroom usage.
- You will be encouraged to remain in your vehicles for the entirety of your time at Park Church.

Phase Two: In House Worship!

- Phase two will begin when indoor worship is allowed by NYS regulations.
- Worship will take place in our Sinclairville and Cassadaga Campuses!
- Spatial distancing, face masks, and hand sanitizer usage will be encouraged by all.
- Communion will be celebrated with individual servings for each person.
- Your greeters will not be shaking hands or handing out bulletins. They will be just as friendly and encouraging as ever as you enter for worship!
- Church doors will open 15 minutes prior to worship, and we will encourage folks to exit into the mission field following the service.
- There will also be no Sunday School, in person Small Groups, or childcare during this phase.

Phase Three: All Systems Go!

- Phase three will begin once we are confident we can maintain full function.
- Park Church's in house discipleship programs for all ages will start back up!
- Coffee will be available at the coffee station!
- All systems will be a go!

I will leave you with a few words from St. Paul. "Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith." We are all lacking the fellowship of the body of Christ, and soon we will again have that communion and what a day it will be!

Live loved friends!
Pastor Joe