Dear Brother and Sisters of St. John’s,

Sunday, June 28th we at St. John’s will have our first in-person worship service since March 8th. It will be a joy to gather together again to worship, listen to His word, pray and share fellowship with one another. You will still be able to join in the service virtually on Facebook Live and access audio through Zoom. We also will continue to send out the bulletin and sermon to those without internet access. Sunday Schools will continue to meet virtually as well.

Our worship will take place in accord with the following requirements from the Bishops Office for Phase 2

1. Please note: **Children of all ages are now welcome to attend worship services in Phase 2.**

Children will stay with their families throughout the service and are expected to wear face coverings. Parents with young children are asked to sit near an exit and to monitor their children. In the event that a child refuses to keep their mask on a parent should remove the child from the sanctuary for the length of the service.

2. Each attendee will need to register their intent to attend each in-person worship service. This is to ensure that we will not exceed 50% capacity of the sanctuary and can accommodate all in a physically distanced fashion. This registration can be accomplished by completing the health acknowledgement form mentioned in the next requirement.

3. Prior to attending in-person worship, each week, each person must turn in a health acknowledgement form. This form may be completed on a web-portal <https://www.evc.vaumc.org/home/> If you cannot, or would prefer not to complete the form online call Pastor Chuck and he will complete it verbally with you. Please call him on his cell phone 804-387-2029. Paper copies will be available at worship in the event that one was not able to be filled out ahead of time. The intent of this form is to encourage close monitoring of our individual health as we gather in an attempt to protect people. If possible please complete registration prior to the Wednesday before worship.

Only the pastor will review these forms each week and they will be kept locked in a confidential file. The information in this form may be reviewed by the District Superintendent, Bishop and other authorities in the church and given to Federal, State and Local Health departments if requested for contact tracing or other legitimate purposes.

3. Cloth face coverings must be worn by all from arrival on church grounds to departure.

If upon arrival you do not have a face covering individually bagged masks will be spread out on a table for you to take, use and keep as our gift to you.

Unfortunately, this requirement means anyone unable to wear a mask for medical reasons cannot attend worship during this phase.

4. Except for individuals who live in the same household a physical distance of six feet must be maintained at all times between persons.

Please maintain six feet of distance when you exit your vehicle in the parking lot.

Pews have been marked so as to support seating in a physically distanced manner. Please honor the seating as it has been marked and maintain physical distance at all times.

During this phase physical distancing means no handshakes, hugs, fist bumps or other physical contact. Waves, nods, Vulcan hand signs or whatever other creative way to express greeting and affection are welcome - masked from a minimum of six feet away.

Unfortunately, if an individual refuses to mask or maintain social distance after being reminded and then asked to the service of worship will stop and the individual will not be allowed to return during Phase 2.

Other aspects of worship will also be a little different:

1. All will enter through the main sanctuary doors and at the end of worship you will be dismissed by rows and will exit through the door by the office.

2. An offering plate is positioned to the right after entering the sanctuary and to the left of the exit door. Please drop your offering in either of these plates.

3. There will be no singing - congregational, choral or solo.

4. There will be no paper bulletins - the bulletin will be projected on the front right wall of the sanctuary.

5. To increase air flow and decrease surface contact many doors and windows will be opened throughout the worship service in the narthex, sanctuary and back hallway.

6. When Holy-Communion is celebrated you will be asked to take the elements from the church as you exit and receive them in your car or at home. This is because the mask requirement does not permit the removal of masks to receive communion.

This all may seem strange, and indeed it is, but there will be signs and members of the Healthy Church team to help us all navigate these temporary waters. I look forward to seeing those who feel comfortable on the 28th and throughout Phase 2.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me by phone 804-387-2029 or email Chuckcole@vaumc.org.

In Christ,

Pastor Chuck Cole