

In November, the Grace Church ReOpening Committee and the Council decided to pause in-person worship and large special events due to the COVID19 pandemic. Since that time, we continue to offer PEG-TV (channel 1075) and online worship opportunities via the Grace Church website using YouTube and Facebook. Please click here for online worship experiences: <https://gracechurchvt.org/category/worship/online-worship-service/>. For more information, here is an Introduction to Online Services: <https://gracechurchvt.org/2020/12/06/introduction-online-worship/>.

We WILL resume in-person worship when it is safer to gather together. As has been the case all along, the Church Office is open Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 3:30 pm. Safety protocols are being carefully followed. On most days, the only exterior door which is open is on the Center Street side (closest to the Rutland Library).

On February 9, this update came from the ReOpening Committee:

The Grace Church Council voted last week to approve the use of space inside our building for small group meetings only. We will be gradually adding small group meeting opportunities to the calendar as scheduling and sanitation schedules allow. All groups looking to gather in-person must first **contact Kit Wallace in the office for a room reservation**. Kit will be scheduling all rooms for meetings to ensure we meet our reduced room capacity and strict sanitation standards. She will work with group leaders to ensure we are gradually ramping up and allowing only groups willing to participate in our strict safety standards to use building space.

Groups are limited to 25 persons at one time. Each room in our building now has a specific social distancing capacity limit; groups may be asked to relocate to a larger space to meet social distancing protocols. We are still following the mask mandate within the building at all times. **All groups will need to utilize hand sanitizer stations, ensure constant mask wearing, and report attendance for contact tracing.** Plexiglass dividers can be requested for use within other rooms if necessary. At this time we are **not allowing refreshments**, eating, or mask removal for snacking at any of the small group gatherings.

We understand that some congregants may not be ready to participate in a small group gathering at church yet. **We completely respect and support each person's individual decision to participate in a manner that best suits their own health situation.** We want to support all members in their own decision-making, whether it be to participate in an in-person socially distanced prayer group or phone in to Bible Study.

The ReOpening Committee remains committed to meeting bi-monthly to discuss the ever-changing COVID situation. We recognize that while COVID will not disappear completely, we want to gradually start adjusting to a meeting schedule that abides by the VT Dept of Health guidelines for safe church gatherings. We will also continue to open our building for essential substance abuse support groups.

In addition we want to CELEBRATE all our Grace church members that have been able to start the vaccination process! We know many of our front line health care workers have completed

their vaccination cycle. We also celebrate that our 75+ old members are starting to get appointments and their first dosages. Please call Marty Barclay (775-1076) if you are having any issues securing an appointment when your age group is eligible. (Our thanks to Christina Sweet for the picture below!)

Please call or email Kit in the office (775-4301; kit@gracechurchvt.org) if your group would like to safely meet inside our building.

