

Friends in Christ,

Sometime in February we started to hear the words: Coronavirus, COVID-19, self-isolation, PPE, and pandemic. These words have now become a familiar refrain. When it was clear that a world in pandemic was the new normal, your consistory decided to do whatever necessary to keep you safe, so we discontinued the weekly service in the sanctuary.

Before we continue, we want to thank those who quickly stepped up and found a way to use our technology to keep us worshipping together each Sunday morning. David Patterson became our link to Zoom, Pastor Rett continued to preach to us from his home in New Jersey, the praise team brought us familiar music, and Cindy and Cara found a way to keep the young people connected. Many others helped in countless ways, and we are grateful to all.

Governor Cuomo, in recent weeks, has said we can look at ways to return to our church if we can make every effort to focus on safety. The consistory has started to educate ourselves on what we need to do to keep our church compliant. This includes conversations with local and state officials, educating ourselves on guidelines, obtaining equipment, assessing and preparing the layout of the church, and reaching out to other churches to learn from their experiences. Please know that while we are working diligently to make this happen, we have not yet set a date for return.

As of now, our plans for re-opening include the required use of masks, just as we do when we go out in public. We encourage each person to bring their own from home but if you do not have a mask, one will be provided. Science has determined they are our best defense against the virus and masks will be required to enter the sanctuary. We will also need to maintain six (6) feet of social distancing at all times. The church will be clearly marked so if you obey these marks you will be compliant. We will also work to ensure the church is thoroughly cleaned before and after each service. As with most things in the “new normal,” these requirements and any other plans we put into place in the coming weeks are subject to change.

The consistory will continue to gather information and equipment needed to bring us back together once again. We promise to keep you up to date; look for an update no later than July 12th. In the meantime, please pray for us as we move forward. Our aim is to keep everyone safe so we can worship together once again.

Sincerely,
Your Consistory at the Fonda Reformed Church