

Friends in Christ,

We write to you today with an update on our plans to resume in-person worship services at Fonda Reformed Church. We hope this letter finds you and yours in good health and spirits.

Over the past several weeks, your consistory has been working hard to prepare the church so that we can safely meet again for in-person services. 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. We are happy to report that we are nearing the time where we can welcome you back into the church.

On the following pages you will find documentation based on guidelines provided to us from Montgomery County Department of Health:

1. Required screening document
2. Guidelines that everyone who attends in-person services must follow

Please note that we will continue streaming services via Zoom for those who wish to attend virtually. The Zoom service will also be presented on the projector in the sanctuary - there will not be a pastor present for in-person services. Pastor Rett has graciously offered to continue preaching from Denmark throughout the remainder of the summer.

We promise to keep you up to date; look for an announcement with the opening date no later than the week of August 2nd. 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

SCREENING FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES

These will be available at the church, but you can also print and fill out before leaving home to save time.

1. Name(s) and contact information: [include everyone living in the same household]

Name(s)	Contact Information (email and/or phone number)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. I (We) attest that:

- a. I (We) understand that I must have my temperature taken before entering the building, wear a mask during the entire service, and maintain 6' distance from people who don't live in my household. I also understand that if I choose not to comply, I will be unable to attend in-person services but can instead attend online via Zoom.
- b. I (We) have not, or someone who lives with me has not, traveled outside NY state and/or outside the USA in the past 14 days.
- c. I (We) have not experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days AND/OR I have a fever (temperature above 98.6).
- d. I (We) have not knowingly come in close or proximate contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19.

Signature

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES*

1. Physical Distancing

- a. Entry to the church will only be through the parking-lot entrance that leads to the vestibule.
- b. Parishioners will exit the church out the designated doors.
- c. Based on social distancing guidelines of 6', the maximum number of "spots" available in our church sanctuary is 18, plus 6 individual seats in Fellowship Hall. A "spot" is defined as half a pew and can fit up to 4 people (if those 4 people live in the same house).
 - i. Only those who live in the same household may sit together.
 - ii. Therefore, the sanctuary is limited to a range of 18-72 people, depending on size of household group "spots".
 - iii. Attendees can view the service on the projector screen from the sanctuary. All other areas are closed to parishioners at this time.
- d. Social distancing of at least six feet amongst all individuals at all times is required, unless safety of the core activity requires a shorter distance (e.g. pallbearing) or the individuals are members of the same household.
- e. Those in attendance will refrain from singing in the sanctuary at this time as singing expels 6x more aerosols as talking.
- f. Use of small spaces (elevators) is limited to one individual at a time.
- g. Cross-traffic will be discouraged. Directional arrows on the floor are spaced 6' apart.
 - i. To enter the church, follow the green arrows.
 - ii. To exit the church, follow red arrows.
- h. Signs are posted throughout the facility to help inform and direct.
- i. Remote service option continues to be available (via Zoom).
- j. Parishioners are asked to remain seated during service.
- k. Parishioners are asked to refrain from sharing objects (such as religious texts, collection plates, and other materials) as well as touching shared surfaces unless necessary for safety (such as pews, instruments, and doors).
 - i. Bibles, hymnals, and pew cushions have been removed from the sanctuary. But you can still BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible)!
 - ii. Offering plates will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary.
 - iii. Passing of the peace, deacons at the door, coffee hour, and Communion are on hold until further notice.
- l. Fans will not be used in the church, in an effort to avoid the spread of aerosolized particles.
- m. Doors will open approximately 15 minutes before the start of service. No one will be permitted to be seated once service has begun.

2. Masks

- a. All attendees must be prepared to wear a face covering at all times while inside the building.

- i. Face coverings will be provided to all who do not have them.
- ii. Face coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth unless doing so would be contrary to the individual's health or safety due to a medical condition, or if the attendee is under two years old.

3. Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

- a. Hand hygiene stations will be provided and maintained on site, as follows:
 - i. For handwashing (in restrooms): soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
 - ii. Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the location for use by all. It will be placed in convenient locations such as points of entrance/exit.
- b. Parishioners are asked to sanitize their hands before entering and upon leaving.
- c. Regular cleaning and disinfection of the location or facility and more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high risk areas used by many individuals will occur.
- d. Restrooms will require a wipe-down by the person who used the facilities.

4. Communication

- a. Fonda Reformed Church will maintain, through Consistory, open communications with employees, volunteers, and parishioners, that include applicable instructions, signage, and changes in processes.

5. Screening, Testing, and Attendee Logs

- i. Mandatory health screening practices for all before entering the building.
 - 1. At a minimum, screening must be completed using a questionnaire that determines whether the person has:
 - a. knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
 - b. tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
 - c. has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and/or
 - d. traveled outside the area in the last 14 days to an area with a mandatory quarantine when re-entering NY.
- ii. Temperature checks of all attendees.
- iii. A person who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms will not be allowed to enter the building.
- iv. Fonda Reformed Church will maintain a log of every person in attendance at the gathering site.

*No religious and funeral services activity can occur without meeting the minimum State standards, as well as applicable federal requirements, including but not limited to such minimum standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The State standards contained within this guidance apply to all religious and funeral services in operation during the COVID-19 public health emergency until rescinded or amended by the State.

These guidelines are minimum requirements only, and additional precautions or increased restrictions may be required by the institution or operator. These guidelines are based on the best-known public health practices at the time of publication, and the documentation upon which these guidelines are based can and does change frequently