



Elder Team Update, February 19, 2021:

One of the most helpful numbers to look at regarding the risk for COVID infection when gathering together as a church is the number of new cases of COVID in our community (Lebanon County). As an Elder Team, we have been monitoring these numbers closely. For most of December and the first two weeks of January, we were running at our highest risk since the pandemic started, averaging about 90 new cases/day/100k people. That has dropped significantly in the past three weeks, and we are presently at 32 new cases/day/100K people. This is back down to where we were in early November. While there is no certainty, we are hoping that we will continue to see a downward trend as we head into the Spring.

We plan to resume our in-person gatherings on Sunday, March 14, 2021, if we continue to see this same improving trend. We will be continuing the following precautions.

- Face masks are still recommended, and social distancing in the sanctuary will be in place.
- Air purifiers and hand sanitizers are located throughout the building.
- If you show any signs of COVID symptoms or have been around anyone with symptoms, please refrain from coming to our in-person gathering. (Zoom services will continue—see note below **)

We have taken a cautious approach throughout this entire pandemic and will continue to do so as we reopen our building to in-person gatherings. Phase One of re-opening is our in-person Sunday morning worship services. Phase Two will include resuming Sunday School classes. Moving to the next phase will be assessed as we move closer to our re-opening date and as the new cases of COVID continue to decline.

A note of caution for those with high-risk conditions:

**Please note that we are still offering our services on zoom if you have any high-risk conditions. Zoom services will begin at 10:15 am and will have a visual of the main speaker and the audio of music and sharing time.