

Safety and Security Team Update: January 2021

The Safety and Security Team met on Monday, January 4th to discuss the increase in COVID-19 numbers and the ever-growing positivity rate in our community. According to the Virginia Department of Health, the city of Chesapeake has a positivity rate of 20.2%. This is double the percentage of our worst days this summer. Due to the rise in positivity rates and COVID cases-- in addition to the Governor's orders for groups of 10 people or less, we will not be able to open the church to life groups or any other small groups at this time. Great Bridge Presbyterian will remain in phase III of our re-opening plan. However, the Governor's orders do not apply to Worship services, therefore, our Sunday services will continue in the same manner. The Safety and Security team will continue to meet regularly to stay abreast of the current numbers and will be ready to present any new proposals to our Session once there is a change in the COVID cases in our area.

Here are *some* of the COVID-protocols you can expect to experience for Sunday morning Worship in order to keep our congregation as safe as possible:

1. Three-online services (including two live streams) are available for those who are high risk or uncomfortable attending in-person Worship.
2. Masks and social distancing are required for those in attendance.
3. Pre-registration for Sunday services is encouraged to ensure we are at 50% or less capacity as required by the state of Virginia.
4. Our main entrance doors and Sanctuary doors are left open to ensure air flow from the outdoors during both services. (Please dress warmly during these winter months.)
5. Hand sanitizer and masks are available in the Narthex.
6. Worship participants in both Traditional and Contemporary services are kept to a minimum.
7. GBPC Facility Director and Sexton disinfect the Sanctuary every Sunday after services.

There are many other safety precautions that the staff and volunteers adhere to in order to make Worship service possible. If you have any questions for the committee, please feel free to contact the safety and security committee through our communications liaison Stacey Michalak. Stacey's email is: staceym@gbpres.org.

Our church office will remain open from 9am--2pm, Monday-Friday. The Safety and Security Team is grateful for the continued support of our GBPC Session, staff, Ushers, and congregation during this evolving situation. We are continuing to pray for wisdom in order to offer the best safe practices possible for our congregation, while also giving our church family opportunity to Worship together. We are grateful to our Lord for His many blessings in the midst of this time and we believe there is an end in sight. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit," Romans 15:13.