



Oakmont Presbyterian Church



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June 10, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First, a word about the protests following George Floyd's death. Not one person with whom I have spoken has defended the police officer who held his knee on the neck of the handcuffed and subdued Mr. Floyd. Legitimate concerns for equal justice have been raised and legislative proposals for police reform are being considered at the national, state and local levels of government. Our democracy allows for and needs open debate if we are to live into the values in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution and if we are to achieve a greater wellbeing within our society. An elder once wisely advised me: "Don't focus on the extremes; rather, find what is right for the most people." While there are extremes in this national "conversation", I invite you to join me in praying that God will lead us to prudent reforms and to greater racial healing in our country.

Now, a word about the coronavirus. Western Pennsylvanians have moved from the yellow to the green phase. Watching reports of re-openings there seems to be a spirit among us of "having moved on"...as if we met the virus, contended with it and overcame it. However, the virus, once called the "silent enemy", is still among us, still infecting people and causing over 1,000 deaths nationally each day. Please continue to observe the mitigating practices: wearing masks, washing your hands regularly with soap for 20 seconds, maintaining 6 feet distance from others, and avoiding large crowds. Our goal is the health of everyone.

Finally, thank you to the OPC leaders and staff members who have continued to work throughout this pandemic. This week we have been busily preparing for in-person worship that will resume at 10 am on Thursdays and Sundays beginning June 18 and 21. Here is what you need to know:

- People are deciding whether to resume gathering for worship now or to wait until a later date. Each individual and every family must decide what is right for them.
- We will continue to post recordings of worship on our OPC website by 11 am Sunday.
- Our sanctuary capacity, given physical distancing, is some 60 seats. **To reserve a seat for worship** please use the **[Click Here to Reserve a Seat](https://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org/)** tab on the opening page of our website (<https://www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org/>) OR call the church office at 412.828.5770.
- The **ELEVATOR and SANCTUARY TOWER doors will open at 9:30 am.**
- **Masks are required for worship.**
- Worship bulletins will be posted on our OPC website. Paper bulletins will also be available.
- **Please maintain 6 feet distance from others in gathering, seating and departing worship.** Masks will be available in the vestibules should you not bring a mask. Also located in the vestibules will be hand sanitizer and rubber gloves should you want or need them. Offering baskets will be located inside the sanctuary vestibules.

With God's help we are moving in faith through these challenging days! Grace to you all, and

Peace,

Steve