

## Latest Update on Regathering for In-person Worship

The St Stephen's Phased Regathering Committee has met twice now and devised a preliminary plan for in-person worship which was submitted to the diocese for review and approval. As we move forward with the plan, we would like to have your input. **Please help us with your feedback by completing the linked survey: [Click here for live link to survey.](#)**

Due to local restrictions against meeting inside, in-person worship will take place outdoors during the next phase. The clergy and musicians are designing a celebratory and brief service to be held in the courtyard that will be accessible to all ages. Please stay tuned to *Tidings* for more details about description, dates, and guidelines for this service.

**Live-streaming of services will continue as a permanent worship option.** This format has proven highly responsive and successful for reaching congregants who may still find it too risky to return, people whose schedules and life circumstances prevent them from attending, worshippers who live too far away to attend in person, and new people who have joined because livestream worship works well for them.

Each parish in the diocese is currently formulating a detailed plan for regathering in person. It is important to note that the entire diocese and St Stephen's Church in particular, will be thoughtful, cautious, and unrushed in reopening church buildings. With many pastoral, justice, health, and logistical elements to consider, a reopening of church campuses (indoors and outdoors) for in-person worship will be a highly intentional, reasoned, trial-tested, and well-considered process.

The Phased Regathering Team for St Stephen's Church is chaired by Dr. Philip Norris, and the team also includes Drs. Jennie Taylor, Ted Lynch and John Engstrom; Diana Long and Chris Mudge; the Rev'd's Phillip Ellsworth and Christine Trainor.

The committee will outline a proposal based on their expertise, Marin County Health Orders <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/> and diocesan guidelines <https://diocal.org/covid-19-advisories>.

Please note that dates and practices may shift depending on the pace of the COVID-19 epidemic, and that once started, in-person services may need to be halted if community transmission changes.

