Siblings in Christ,

A couple of items.

ONE: As you know, on Friday, June 4th Governor Cuomo announced that houses of worship could reopen at a 25% capacity. The figure for capacity can be found on the Certificates posted by the local Fire Department in specific rooms in the building. If you have a Sanctuary there should be one in there, if there is a gathering room or hall there should be one in there. If a space allows for 200 maximum that stipulates 50 people can gather. With that number in mind it’s critical that social distancing still take place and that space has to be clearly marked and understood. You also must follow CDC and government guidelines which you have in hand.

What supersedes all of the above is that our focus is not on getting back to in person worship but caring for all of God’s people as a community gathered and dispersed. It is tantamount that we make certain we are following Jesus’ command to love our neighbor, which includes ensuring their safety as best we/you can. This is essential to moving forward safely for our church communities and leadership.

TWO: Attached are three files regarding reopening. As you know houses of worship have been designated as Essential and, as such, need to fill out a form and have it available should someone ask to see it. The attachments to this email will take you to information and the form. It may take a while to fill but it will assure that the information necessary is available for view. It would be to your advantage, I believe, to post it in at least one public space, if not more so folks can see it and understand clearly what you are doing. This is especially important for visitors. Were I visiting I would want to know what has been done and is being done to make sure the space is safe for me and my family.

If you have any questions please be in touch.

In Christ’s Peace,

John S. Macholz, Bishop

Documents included as links in UU email:
NYS Reopening Business Plan Template
Religious and Funeral Services Summary Guidance
NY Full Religious and Funeral Services Master Guidance