

Advent Security – October 2019

Dear Advent Members and Friends,

A few months ago, Advent Church Council tasked me with putting together a team to work on improving security/safety for people while in the church building. Five wonderful volunteers (**Peggy Earnhardt, Laurene Ackerman, Anne Webb-Gladden, Phil Richie, and Mark Oldenburg**) joined me in researching this and coming up with a list of recommendations. All were all approved by Council, so we are now at the implementation stage. Part of that includes informing you about what changes are being made to improve security/safety. Most of these changes will be completed by November of this year.

1. The ushers will start locking all the church doors shortly after the services start to control access to the building. The doors will ONLY be locked during the services, and the ushers will be available to let in any latecomers through the front (Narthex) doors. Signs will be posted on the two rear doors that encourage visitors to enter through the front church doors, (and remind the rest of us to go to the narthex doors if we are running late), so no one should feel “locked out”. Crash bars are on all exterior doors already, so anyone can leave through any door at any time.
2. Updated emergency info has been posted by each landline in the building so that anyone calling 911 would have pertinent info on hand. In case of an emergency in the building that puts your life at risk, feel free to grab this copy and take it outside the building to call 911.
3. We are currently shopping for an AED (automated external defibrillator) for the church.
4. Some security cameras (interior and exterior) will be installed which will be motion activated and can be remotely accessed.
5. We are looking to sign up volunteers to serve as “Safety Monitor” on Sundays. The main requirement is that the person has the ability to remain calm and think clearly in any emergency situation that crops up (medical, fire, intruder.) This would be our designated point person to assess potential security/safety problems and guide the rest of us in dealing with it. 99.99% of the time this position will only involve sitting near the back sides of the church to keep an eye on everything.
6. We are also looking for volunteers who have medical knowledge that would be willing to help out (however they are comfortable) in a medical emergency. This list of volunteers would be available to the ushers in case someone in the church seems in need of urgent medical attention (mainly assessing whether 911 should be called.)
7. We will be carrying out a fire drill in the near future. This is a good time to consider where all the exits of the church are and if you can easily access one, and the terrain outside of it, if there were an emergency evacuation. If not, you may wish to rethink where you sit in church.

Feel free to ask any questions or express any concerns to the Safety/Security Committee: [Jennifer Simis](#), [Peggy Earnhardt](#), [Laurene Ackerman](#), [Anne Webb-Gladden](#), [Phil Richie](#). If you are willing to volunteer as a “Safety Monitor” or willing to be a consultant in case of urgent medical issue, please let me (Jennifer Simis) know.

Thank you,
Jennifer Simis