



Chester County Department of Emergency Services

February 27, 2019

Faith-Based Preparedness Symposium

PEER TO PEER PRESENTATION



# Peer to Peer Collaboration and Community

- The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hauser, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Kennett Square
- Elizabeth Curtis Swain, Esq., Vestry member, Episcopal Church of the Advent
- Chief Nolt, Kennett Township Police

# Episcopal Church of the Advent

## Development of Emergency Preparedness Plan

### Why and How

Beginning in 2017,

- Nancy began to see a need to assure safety for all attending Advent
- Nancy and members of Advent began to learn what has occurred at schools and what it can take to assure safety
- Nancy formed a committee composed of members of Advent with requisite experience to begin to develop a safety program
- We quickly realized the importance of covering all aspects of emergency preparedness

# Episcopal Church of the Advent

## Development of Emergency Preparedness Plan

### Why and How

In 2018,

- The Committee reached out to Chief Nolt to discuss our concerns and needs
- This led to a community collaboration that includes a physical presence on Sundays among other activities
- Chief Nolt outlined an physical facilities assessment tool by firm KT Police works
- Nancy formed a second committee to develop and implement an Emergency Preparation Plan

# Episcopal Church of the Advent

## Development of Emergency Preparedness Plan

### Critical First Steps & Issues

- The ERP Committee is composed of members at Advent who each bring a critical expertise
- We identified a broad spectrum of risks that Advent needed to prepare for to keep Advent safe and open
  - *Fire events, Personal Injury, Illness, Theft, Robbery, Child Safety, Sexual Harassment, Intruder/Shooter situation*
- We had KT Police perform a walk through of Advent facilities to identify potential access points and diversionary actions to take

# Episcopal Church of the Advent

## Development of Emergency Preparedness Plan

### Critical First Steps & Issues

- The walk through helped identify risk exposures
  - *Security of access doors, security of access windows, fire alarms and exit strategies, internal security of room lock down potentials, child safety education, and security systems*
- An Emergency Preparedness Plan was drafted once the underlying exposures identified
- The Plan seeks to cover all uses of Advent's facilities with involvement of our staff, volunteers & third parties

# Episcopal Church of the Advent

## Development of Emergency Preparedness Plan

### Implementation

- Shared the draft Plan with our congregation to gain input and support
- Plan finalized and submitted to Advent Vestry which approved in January 2019
- Next steps include:
  - *Set up training programs for Clergy, Ushers, Greeters, Church Staff, Pre-School Staff, and others in implementation of plan*
  - *Set up drills to practice plans both mid week and during Sunday services*
  - *Work with outside users of Advent facilities to understand and implement emergency plan*
  - *Installation of new security systems – CCTV, Burglar Alarm, Panic Buttons, Uline film on Windows and internal bolt systems to secure rooms*



THANK YOU

Questions?