

Covid-19 Guiding Principles for Bethany

1. If anyone has had within the past two (2) weeks any signs of cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills or signs and symptoms of the flu; please do not come to worship in-person.
2. If you are older than 65 and/or have any underlying health condition that predisposes you to illness or if you have been treated for an illness that causes a decreased immune response, please protect yourself and do not come to in-person worship.
3. Our goal as a congregation is to protect each other from contracting covid-19 virus and we are willing to take precautions to protect ourselves, each other and the community. To this end, if our congregation becomes a source, or a person becomes a known carrier that was present in worship; the Church Council will take immediate steps to protect the congregation and the community.

Safety Guidelines

- Entrance to building will be from east front doors only. You may exit any door while maintaining physical distancing.
- Upon entering and leaving the church, safety stations will be set-up. Hand gel (gel in, gel out), face masks, and guidelines will be posted.
- Temperature checks may be done at any given time depending on the current situation in our county. (Sunday am, groups greater than 10 people, weddings, funerals).
- Physical guides such as floor markings, chair placements, arrows, to guide for space and distance will help congregation. Pews will be marked and roped off. Directional signs, traffic flow, and directions at entrances.
- Face masks must be worn at all times when in building. (Office persons in private space may remove masks, those on-camera may remove for voice clarity). Masks are provided for those that do not have their own. 3 years and younger do not need to comply.
- All forms of touch - hug, kiss, handshakes – is discouraged.
- Offering plates will be placed on tables in doorways.

- All Hymnals and pew pads will be removed from the Sanctuary.
- Physical distance (6 ft.) in seated arrangements in sanctuary and during meetings will be followed. Family units may sit together, but must maintain physical distancing from others.
- No congregational singing. Speaking in a quieted tone of voice during unison responses (while wearing a mask and using physical distancing) seems to be safe.
- Considering the distribution of Holy Communion, we will be using sterile supplies like we are using now and implement distribution after service. The last pew shall be first out, ushered out from back to front. Take communion kits with you and prayerfully open them after leaving church grounds. Curbside communion will continue for those choosing not to attend in-person worship.
- Minimize any social gathering after services. Socialization is to be done outdoors away from the doors to allow others to exit safely, still maintaining physical distancing as well as wearing masks.
- Pews, handrails, doorknobs, all touchable hand surfaces need to be wiped down after each church service. Doors will be propped open to decrease the amount of hand touch if possible.
- Drinking fountains will be turned off.
- One person at a time in restrooms. Those waiting must maintain physical distancing.
- Bathroom commodes/urinals, and sinks need to be wiped down after each use. Use a paper towel to open the door. Trash receptacles will be placed outside the doors.
- All food, drink, meals, buffet, hand-to-hand sharing, or family style is not allowed.
- All tables used after meetings should be wiped off with sanitizer or wipes. Supplies will be readily

available.

- Health officials will be notified if an outbreak occurs. Facility will be closed and proper steps will be initiated for a comprehensive cleaning. All who have had contact with a positive Covid-19 person are to remain in quarantine and home isolation. Contact tracing will be initiated.
- Volunteer training for those assisting with worship leadership will be provided. Leadership will help in the training of future volunteers.

DISCLAIMER: We may have to switch to broadcast only depending on the current conditions in our county. Changes to the schedule may come with very short notice. We will try to communicate changes as soon as possible by sending out an email, posting on our website and updating our Facebook page.