



bethel
BEING-EQUIPPING-SEEKING | WORSHIPPERS

On November 23, 2020, the elders met to discuss how best to move forward given the recent spike of COVID cases in our community. Unlike this past Spring and Summer, we find ourselves in a totally different situation today. Given this reality, we struggled to find the best and most wise path to take at this critical time. The struggle was made more difficult by the fact that so many factors and variables play into what is the right course to take.

It is the burden of the elders to still have in-person worship. We are all tired of virtual church, virtual school and a virtual life. But can we do this and not endanger one another, either physically or materially? The consistory decided that we need to do everything possible to keep in-person worship available. Therefore, we will be opening up once again for in-person worship beginning November 29th. If we hope to keep in-person worship available, **we need your help**. We cannot promise that we can remain open if our worship becomes a “super-spreader” or we see an outbreak in our congregation. Thus, we are requesting the following:

- Please enter the building with a mask on.
- Please go directly to a row where you can have two chairs of separation between you and the next family (the rows are already properly distanced)
- Once seated, you can remove your mask.
- You only need to wear it again when we sing and when you are exiting the building.

Obviously this is not ideal. But if we are going to keep in-person worship going forward, we are asking you to do this simple and selfless act. Because we are trying to protect and preserve our Sunday worship services (which are prescribed in God’s Word), we will not be having any extra services (which are more of a tradition) until further notice. We will be reviewing this in a few weeks and make adjustments as necessary.

We know and understand why you might not feel comfortable with in-person worship. To you, we would simply ask that you continue to join us via our livestream so that you can still be connected with Bethel as much as possible. We also ask those who are in a vulnerable category or are of an older age to take this current situation seriously. We don’t want you, in your vulnerability, to be exposed to a virus that could easily leave you hospitalized. Also, if you are not feeling well or have been exposed recently, please do not come to church. This consideration gives us the best opportunity to keep in-person worship going.

We know this is a lot of information. We also know the times are difficult. We hope, by keeping in-person worship available to as many as are able to come, that we will minister to all the needs of those who look to Christ for their hope, help and comfort.

United through Christ’s grace and bound by His love,

The Elders of Bethel URC