



Bedford Presbyterian Church

On June 7, 2021, the Session of Bedford Presbyterian Church voted to reopen the church building in a limited capacity, starting **Sunday, June 20**, under the following guidelines.

These guidelines are in place for Summer 2021 and will be reevaluated as Fall approaches.

Have questions? Here are some answers.

Worship FAQs

1. **WHAT WILL WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?**

If you have been attending worship online over the past year, you should anticipate essentially the same worship service, in the Reformed Tradition. There may be some alterations within the worship space in terms of how congregational singing and speaking are handled.

2. **MAY I SCHEDULE A WEDDING OR WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION SERVICE OF WORSHIP (FUNERAL)?**

Yes! You may schedule other kinds of worship services as needed. All services will follow the same protocols used during Sunday morning worship services.

3. **DO I HAVE TO WEAR A MASK? WHAT IF I FORGET MY MASK?**

Masks (worn over the nose and mouth) will be required for all indoor events at BPC, including worship. If you forget your mask, one will be provided for you to use.

4. **DO I NEED TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE?**

At this time, we are encouraging continued physical distancing as well as refraining from hugs and handshakes. Please make space for one another. It is appropriate for you, if need be, to lovingly ask someone to not stand so close.

5. **WHERE SHOULD I SIT FOR WORSHIP?**

In the **Sanctuary**, available pews will be marked. We ask that you sit in one of the marked pews (with family groups sitting together) and wear masks. Once you get to the pew where you will sit,

- those sitting on the street or parking lot sides of the sanctuary are encouraged to sit close to the wall,
- and those sitting in the center section of the sanctuary are encouraged to sit close to the aisles.

In the **Fellowship Hall** (where overflow seating for worship will be set up with a livestream running on the television), please sit with your family and maintain physical distancing from other family groups.

6. WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN IN WORSHIP?

Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship, but we know that some children might not want to sit through the whole service in the Sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed on the TV in the Fellowship Hall, which is open for overflow seating or for some of our younger worshipers and their families (given that there will not be a nursery or Sunday School through the Summer).

7. HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND?

Depending on the number of persons in households, each worship space can seat and maintain physical distancing at the following estimated seating capacities:

- The Sanctuary: 100 to 120 people
- The Fellowship Hall (Overflow): 40 people

7. WILL THERE BE A BULLETIN?

Yes, there will be a bulletin available upon entry to worship.

8. SHOULD I BRING MY OWN BIBLE?

You may always bring your own Bible, but scriptural texts will be printed in the expanded service bulletins.

9. WILL THERE BE HYMNALS?

All liturgy and hymns will be printed for Sanctuary services.

10. WILL THERE BE SINGING?

Yes, as long as you are wearing a mask over your nose and mouth, you are encouraged to sing. Or, simply listen to the music, as led by the worship leaders, and focus on the lyrics of the hymns.

11. WILL THERE BE A PASSING OF THE PEACE?

Yes, but it will be a “contactless” Passing of the Peace (with waving, bowing, or showing other signs of greeting, love, and peace at a distance) to those who are nearby. We are asking that everyone stay in their appointed pew for the entire service, including the Passing of the Peace.

12. WILL COMMUNION BE SERVED?

Communion will be served on the first Sunday of each month. The elements will be in pre-packaged and sealed “Friendship Cups” and available upon entry to worship.

13. WILL THE WORSHIP SPACES BE WELL-VENTILATED?

Yes, the windows will be open in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall *and* we will have air purifiers running in the Sanctuary as well as fans in the Fellowship Hall.

14. WHAT STEPS IS BPC TAKING TO ENSURE A CLEAN, SANITIZED BUILDING?

During the time the church building has been closed, our staff, including custodial staff, have worked to understand the best and safest practices for disinfecting the spaces used. There is ample time for cleaning and disinfecting between services and meetings.

15. I AM NOT QUITE READY FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP. WILL WE CONTINUE TO STREAM SERVICES ONLINE?

Yes! We will continue to stream our 10 AM worship service as it happens on YouTube and Facebook as well as on BCTV (with a one-week delay).

Hospitality FAQs

15. WHERE DO I PARK?

Parking will be available in the church parking lot. Any open spaces are available for you to use.

16. WILL THERE BE COFFEE HOUR?

Coffee Hour will not be available until the Fall, but our Parish Life Committee is planning some after-church fellowship time outdoors this Summer as weather permits.

17. IS THE PLAYGROUND OPEN?

Yes!

18. WILL THERE BE A NURSERY?

Nursery will not be available at this time.

19. CAN CHILDREN ATTEND WORSHIP?

Always! Children can and are encouraged to attend worship services with their parents. Masks will be provided. Coloring sheets will also be available. Children will not be invited forward for the Children's Sermon at this time but will be encouraged to participate from their seats.

20. WILL RESTROOMS BE AVAILABLE?

Yes! We are encouraging one person per restroom at a time. The Church Office restroom will not be available on Sunday mornings.

21. WILL THE CHURCH OFFICE BE OPEN?

Yes! The Church office has remained open in a limited capacity since the beginning of the pandemic. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM until 2 PM.

Sunday School & Other Groups

23. WILL THERE BE SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Children’s Sunday School will resume in September. Until that time, other classes, committees, and groups may request to meet inside the church building. Michelle Jones at mjones@bedfordpresbyterian.org. Michelle will work to help find a room that will fit your needs.

24. WHAT ABOUT OTHER GROUPS, CAN THEY MEET?

Yes!

- Group leaders should notify the church office to indicate a desire to meet in the church building.
- Group leaders must register each meeting with the church and submit an attendance list to the church after every meeting.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Outdoor meetings are preferred, if possible.
- Continued online and in-person meetings are encouraged to provide flexibility and control capacity.
- Individuals may bring food but are asked to not share food or beverages on church grounds.

25. CAN WE HAVE A MEAL AT THE CHURCH?

No. Meals at the church will be re-evaluated in time for the Fall In-Gathering Sunday.