

Bethel United Methodist Church

2020 Re-Opening Policies

The following policies, approved by the Leadership Team, are in effect until any revised information is provided. If you have any questions or need any assistance in either practicing these policies or in their understanding please contact our office: office@bethelumc.info. It is our intention that these policies follow the best practices as provided by the various Health Agencies (websites)* as well as good common sense. It is our goal to also work in conjunction with the requests from the Indiana United Methodist Conference and most importantly maintaining your health. *(See resource list below.)

Phase 1 (starting June 7) Drive-in Service Process (Back Parking Lot) and Facility Use for limited ministry activities.

Phase 2 (starting July 5) Tentative

1. If you do not feel well or are a higher risk person, you should stay at home. You may continue to make use of remote streaming services from home rather than risk possibility of exposing yourself or others.
2. If you feel you have been exposed to someone who may have contracted the Coronavirus, stay home until you can confirm if you have been exposed.
3. If you have been exposed, please self-quarantine for 15 days and we ask you to inform the Marion County Health Department (317-221-2301) and the church office so that we are aware of your status.
4. Only church staff should be in the church prior to 9:30 am on Sunday morning and all members need to exit the church no later than 3 pm so that a deep cleaning can be completed before BECA use on Monday morning.
5. Upon arriving, please wear face masks, if you do not have a face mask, the church will provide you a face mask. The mask is yours to wear from this point forward, after returning home you should wash it before using it again.
6. We ask all to maintain social distancing as best you can. Please remember to avoid shaking hands, giving hugs, elbow bumps, etc. and to refrain from gathering in groups of 10 or more if you can until further notice.
7. The chairs in the Narthex and Lounge have been removed to prevent congregating in the Narthex and Lounge.
8. The choir and group musical presentations are suspended until further notice.
9. Only the Pastor and Music Director will be on the Altar unless we have special music being presented, etc. Social distancing remains in effect for all parties.
10. Only the AV team will be allowed in the sound booth.
11. Children will remain in pews during Children Moments.
12. We ask you to wash or sanitize hands immediately upon entering the church. In the event that restrooms are crowded or unavailable, please make use of the hand sanitizer dispensers provided by the church.
13. We are suspending the use of name tags until further notice. Greeters are to maintain distance and just say welcome or hello, no physical contact. Appropriate training has been applied.
14. Drinking fountains are not to be used and will be covered up.
15. If you sneeze, cough, etc. please use hand sanitizer or wash your hands again. If you don't have your own hand sanitizer, dispensers will be available.
16. Seating in the Sanctuary will be every other pew, we ask you to skip every other row and select an unoccupied pew to maintain social distancing.
17. Offering plates will be at the back of the Sanctuary. Please drop your tithes and offerings into the plate when you enter the sanctuary. The ushers will not collect from the pews.

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18. Communion Sunday (1st Sunday of the month) elements will be provided for participation in the Sacrament.
19. If you make use of any items during the service, leave them laying on the bench so we can identify them for cleaning following the service. (e.g. pew Bibles and hymnals)
20. If you have a prayer request or would like to share information for the Pastor, we ask that you write a note regarding the prayer request or information ahead of time. A place for notes to be deposited will be provided so that they can be followed up on by the Pastor and/or prayer and care ministry team.
21. We will not pass out or distribute attendance pads. Future plans for gathering this data will be communicated.
22. Fellowship Hour and all food preparation in all areas are suspended at this time.
23. In person ministry gatherings and team meetings are suspended until further notice. Please make use of conference calls, video calls, and email correspondence.
24. BECA classrooms are restricted and unavailable during church services. If for any reason a BECA room is entered into, please inform Lynn Morris or John Cazares so that we can have that room deep cleaned prior to being used for BECA services.
25. Playgrounds and equipment are restricted and unavailable at this time.
26. Church office is restricted to only church staff, if you need anything from the office please request it from a staff member or the Pastor. Please refer all questions to: office@bethelumc.info or pastor@bethelumc.info
27. If we have any reason to believe that someone in the congregation is ill with the Coronavirus, the Pastor and Leadership team will advise regarding the appropriate dismissal from church. The church will then be closed until such time as it is determined whether the church member/visitor has tested positive or not. If positive, the church in conjunction with BECA will be closed for the next 7 days to allow for the deep cleaning of the facilities.
28. All public use of the facility is suspended until further notice out of concern for the safety and care of the church and community. This includes any community use of the FLC, or other campus space for weddings, funerals, etc.
29. These guidelines approved by the Leadership Team apply to all organizations making use of the Bethel Campus.
30. The Bethel Leadership Team will continue to monitor information provided by the city, state and conference and will make changes to our policies as required. Phase 3 (TBD) of the re-opening will be communicated to everyone prior to going into effect.

REAL-TIME INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- United Methodist Churches of Indiana: COVID-19 Updates
<https://www.inumc.org/bishop/coronavirus/an-update-from-bishop-trimble-about-re-opening-churches/>
<https://www.inumc.org/ministries/coronavirus-the-latest-news-and-precautionary-guidelines/>
- Governor Holcomb's Roadmap to Safely Reopen Indiana
www.Backontrack.in.gov Indiana State Department of Health – coronavirus – <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov>
- Marion County agencies – <https://www.indy.gov/agencies> CDC- <https://www.cdc.gov>