

## **GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT BETHESDA DURING COVID 19**

### **GOVERNING PRINCIPLES**

1. Our first priority will be the safety and health of our congregation and staff.
2. We will adhere to the federal, state, and city guidelines for opening up.
3. We will continue to consult with city leaders, other churches, and medical professionals.
4. We will stay informed on current trends of the COVID-19 virus.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU ATTEND**

1. Our streaming services will continue on Sunday mornings.
2. We will meet in the Westminster Hall at 10:30 a.m.
3. Gathered worship will take place in Westminster Hall only.
4. No small groups, Sunday School or Bible study groups, or youth groups will be held on campus until further notice.
5. Small groups, Sunday School, Bible study groups, and youth groups should plan to continue meeting electronically at their convenience.
6. Children will be asked not to attend the service if parents determine they are unable to adhere to Covid Guidelines
7. Each person will be screened before they enter the worship area.
8. Face masks are required while on church property. Please bring a face mask with you. If you are unable to do so, one will be provided at the screening station. Face masks will also be required throughout worship.
9. The Bethesda Health Cabinet and many other entities have advised against congregational singing, even with masks, and we will adhere to that advice. We will return to corporate singing at the earliest date possible.
10. We encourage you not to attend if you fall into one of these categories:
  - a. Individuals with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, prolonged use of corticosteroids or other immune-weakening medications, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and undergoing dialysis or liver disease.
  - b. Those who are or have recently been sick.
  - c. Those who have any symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
11. Please evaluate whether or not you should attend if you are a caregiver.
12. Social distancing protocols will be in place; your cooperation will be appreciated.
13. The bathroom in Westminster Hall will be open.
14. Volunteers will wipe down and sanitize Westminster Hall and bathrooms at the close of each service.

## **PREPARING FACILITIES AND CAMPUS FOR WORSHIP**

1. Our volunteers have completed a deep cleaning of our facilities.
2. Hand wipes and sanitizers will be available in bathrooms, hallways, and entrances.
3. A one-way system for moving through the campus will be in place.
4. Entrance doors and exit doors will be propped open at the appropriate times.
5. Westminster Hall will be the only building open.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

1. Entrance will open 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each service.
2. A health screening table will be set up at an appropriate place in Westminster Hall.
3. Be prepared to answer the following COVID-19 screening questions:
  - a. What is your name and telephone number?
  - b. Have you had contact with individuals with known COVID-19 infections?
  - c. Have you had fever or chills?
  - d. Do you have a new cough or difficulty breathing?
4. You will be asked to use hand sanitizer and wear a mask when you arrive.
5. Signage will be placed throughout the facilities reminding people of social distancing and general hygiene.
6. Tape will be placed at eight-foot intervals at all queuing areas (hallways, entrances, etc.).

## **WHAT TO EXPECT IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES**

1. Online services will continue each week.
2. All services will be held in the Westminster Hall.
3. Upon entering Westminster Hall, you will be seated by an usher. This will enable us to sanitize each chair that has been occupied after the close of the service.
4. Members of the same household can sit together; however, social distancing must be maintained with other congregants.
5. Westminster Hall will be set up with eight feet between single chairs and clusters for family seating.
6. There will be no choir during this transition period. Small musical ensembles may be used.
7. Offering plates will be placed at the exit in Westminster Hall for reception of tithes and offerings.
8. Communion will not take place during the initial startup period.
9. No childcare will be offered.

10. No children's church will be offered. No children's Sunday school or youth groups will meet.
11. No one-on-one prayer will take place during or after services.
12. The pastor will dismiss the congregation by sections with the ushers' guidance.
13. You will not exit through the door you entered.
14. No bulletin or other publications will be distributed.
15. No printed Order of Service will be available. Responsive readings will be displayed on a screen.
16. A medical professional will be available for the service.

### **VOLUNTEER BASE**

1. Numerous volunteers will be required. All volunteers will be screened prior to active service.
2. Elders who are not in the high-risk categories will be recruited and trained to serve as traffic monitors, sanitizers for wiping down of worship space and overflow areas and screeners.
3. We will identify and train supervisors for
  - a. Screening stations and volunteer screening
  - b. Sanitizers for worship spaces
  - c. Traffic monitors
  - d. Ushers