

## **Guidelines for Phase 1 of BMC's Re-Gathering**

### **Introduction:**

In light of the West Virginia phased reopening plan, Bethany Memorial Church Board has voted to return to in-person worship beginning Sunday, July 5. To protect all who wish to return to worship at BMC, the Board has approved the re-gathering policy contained herein.

Until further notice Bethany Memorial facilities remain closed to non-Church related activities. In order to keep you informed, BMC will make announcements and general information available via the BMC website, Facebook, the elders' phone-tree, and other outlets as possible.

### **General Information:**

- Individuals with compromising health issues may wish to attend worship service via Facebook Live.
- For individual safety, and the safety of other in-person worshippers, anyone experiencing Covid-like symptoms (temperature, sore throat, cold-like cough) and/or exposed to someone with covid-19 is expected to participate in worship via live stream rather than in person.
- Persons whose Covid-like symptoms persist are encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing before deciding to attend in-person worship services on a subsequent Sunday morning.
- All individuals attending services must wear a facemask. Any individual unwilling to do so is welcome to view the service in the Mahaffey Parlor via television. A willingness to wear a mask is regarded as an act of love in an effort to protect fellow worshippers and adheres to CDC guidelines. Masks will be available at the church.
- Children under the age of three are not required to wear masks.
- The drinking fountain and all classroom/common areas will be inaccessible.
- The restroom on the main floor will be open. As sanitizing agents will be available, individuals are expected to sanitize surfaces before and after use.

### **Seating and Worship:**

- Individuals/couples/families intending to worship must maintain a six-foot social distance and wear masks.
- Worshippers will maintain the required social distance until they reach the building's entrance where they will be greeted by a deacon.
- When individuals enter in single file, they are requested to sanitize their hands using the free-standing dispenser just inside the door.
- After sanitizing hands, attendees may pick up a printed bulletin which should be disposed of when they exit.
- Since excerpts from the bulletin and lectionary selections will be projected on the overhead screen, worshippers can assist BMC in its Green Chalice efforts by relying on the overhead screen instead of a paper bulletin
- A tithing/offering box and a tray with individualized sacraments are on a table at the entrance to the sanctuary as collection plates and communion will not be passed during the service.

- Worshipers are welcome to bring their own communion elements and to continue their giving online or by mailing in checks to the church office.
- Individuals will be seated in the middle section of the pews first. BMC's Phase-1 plan limits middle section occupancy to no more than 20 individuals.
- Every third pew in the central section will be accessible for seating to affect 6-foot physical distancing, front to rear. Once the central section is filled, a side section will be opened.
- A deacon will direct individual/couples/families to specific seats to guarantee 6-foot distancing. Specific seating locations will be indicated by a cross taped on the back of the pew.
- Individuals and families are expected to occupy only the area where a deacon indicates seating is available.
- There will be music but individuals are asked not to sing.
- Once service has ended, a deacon will indicate when an individual/family/couple is to exit.
- Individuals are advised to sanitize their hands and dispose of communion/bulletin refuse upon exiting.
- In order to maintain social distancing, no congregating or socializing inside the Church is permitted.