

Plan for re-starting “in-person worship Bethesda Presbyterian Church

The following plan was developed by the Session on June 1st, 2020 for the initial re-opening of “in-person” worship Bethesda.

In person will begin on Sunday June 14th. Worship services this summer will be held at 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday morning Sunday School, Bible Study or nursery service at this time. The following measures will be put in place during “In-person Worship’ during the summer months.

- The weekly worship service will be kept to 45 minutes in length.
- The congregation will not participate in public singing during worship at this time.
- Initially music selections will be instrumental only with no singing. *(This will be evaluated over time and changed at the discretion of the minister and the music director.)*
- Entry and exit from the sanctuary will be through the side entrance of the church. The front doors of the church and narthex will not be used for sanctuary entry and exit at this time.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available at the entry door.
- Seating will be in every other rows. These rows will be clearly identified.
- The first two rows of the center section of seating will be left vacant to provide social distance space for the minister during the service.
- Elders on Duty / Ushers will assist worshipers to a proper row seating upon arrival if needed.
- Members will refrain from physical contact during the worship service, i.e. passing of the peace observing social distance practices.
- Families / couples may be seated in the same pew without regard to 6- foot social distance requirements if they desire. Individual members and couple pairs shall observe 6-foot social distance requirements from other members in seating.
- The Weekly Worship Service will continue to be recorded and made available on-line as soon possible (24-48 hrs.)
- Worship service will continue to offer a message to children.
- Elders are encouraged to take part in the weekly service serving as liturgist and offering messages of hope and support to the congregation.
- Designated offering collection points will be available at the church entrance point.
- Elders on Duty / Ushers will assist with seating dismissal by rows at the conclusion of the service.
- This plan is a living document and may be changed as conditions warrant.

Other information of interest to the congregation related to sanctuary preparation. The sanctuary has had extensive cleaning to all wood work carpets and surfaces. The pew seat cushions have been temporarily removed due to difficulty in continued cleaning requirements with reopening. The sanctuary will be thoroughly cleaned each week after worship services.

June 1st, 2020