



COVID19 Policies

November 24, 2020

Our Phase II plans are based on session's assessment of COVID19 conditions in Bristol and in our region. These recommendations are not a guarantee but a set of guidelines that may need to evolve as local conditions change. They include the following:

Distancing Rules, Ventilation, & General Concerns

- We will offer masks at worship services, and **congregants are expected to wear masks** at church functions.
- We ask everyone to observe distancing of at least 6 feet, refrain from handshakes and other contact during worship, and encourage handwashing and the use of sanitizer.
- Those who are medically vulnerable, or over the age of 65 ought to reflect carefully on whether an in-person return is advisable in their case. We want you to be safe.
- Refrain from in-person worship or other church activities for 14 days if you have tested positive for COVID19, traveled extensively outside the Tri-Cities area, had close contact with people from high risk areas, or been around anyone who has tested positive for COVID19
- We will ask those showing visible signs of illness to go home.

Worship

- Offerings will be taken, but we will not pass the collection plates.
- We will not shake hands or touch during the sharing of the peace of Christ. Instead, we will ask people to turn to their neighbors.
- The Lord's Table will be observed in-person, as well as virtually. In-person worship will use the prepackaged containers. The pastors will distribute row by row.
- Ushers will come behind the pastors to collect used containers in a lined wastebasket.
- Chairs and pews will be appropriately spaced.

- We will use small screens to help shield the congregation from performers' exhalations.
- We will offer sealed bottles of water, but no coffee or snacks.
- The choir will continue to give limited presentations at the 11:00 service.
- Singers or speakers who remove their masks to speak or perform will stay approximately 12 feet away from the nearest congregant.
- All hymnals and Bibles at the church will be removed. Paper copies will be provided.
- Distanced balcony seating and at the rear of the sanctuary are no-singing spaces.

Education

- Leaders may resume Sunday morning adult Bible studies under worship guidelines.
- Sunday school, Kids' Kirk, and nursery will follow the Bristol, Tennessee City School system's policy on in-person meetings. If BTCS is meeting for classes in-person, we will as well, while also offering classes online. If BTCS suspends in-person classes, we will go to online only.
- We will continue to offer web-based children's, youth, and adult lessons after 9:00 worship.
- Sunday School classes will follow social distancing, hygiene, and mask rules.
- The nursery is available on a limited basis, but we do ask parents to let us know in advance, if possible, that they are coming so we can accommodate them.
- Kids' Kirk will be offered midworship at both services. Children must wear a mask. Kids' Kirk will be held outdoors in good weather, and in the chapel during inclement weather. We will encourage proper hygiene. No snacks will be provided, but water will be available in bottles.
- Fun Family Fellowship and Youth events may proceed outdoors.

I know this list seems long, and very, very unnatural when thinking about meeting your family in Christ. I wish we didn't have to be concerned about COVID-19, but we must. I believe God would have us balance our desire to return to normal with our obligation to love our neighbor as ourselves. So, again, I ask your patience, and I also ask for your prayers.

In Christ,



Rev. Samuel Weddington