

NC4 Reopening Guidelines
Phase 1 Reopening: Sunday, June 21, 2020 10AM
Bethlehem & Macungie Campuses

Background

Guiding Verse

Love your neighbor as yourself. Matt 22:39

Implication & Expectation

We will all sacrifice and make accommodations for the sake of the well-being of others.

Elders' Mandate

To protect the sheep for which they will give an account. Hebrews 13:17

The Simple Summary from Healthcare Officials

The best way to prevent the spread of Covid-19 is social distancing,
washing our hands, not touching our faces, and wearing masks.

The Unique Challenge for Churches

- + Singing is among the highest risk activities because we project from our lungs and powerfully breathe out droplets that go even farther than normal speech.
 - + Add an indoor, familiar, high physical contact (handshakes and hugs) environment
 - + Mix in multiple generations with varying exposure risks and work & home environments
- = ***An environment ripe for virus transmission.***

Submitted to Authority & Continually Seeking Wise Counsel

In Pennsylvania, churches are legally deemed "essential" and "exempt" from restriction. Originally, we closed our campuses in compliance with the Governor's request to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. Now as this risk has been reduced and there's more information about how to minimize it - and after much prayer and research, counsel from our One Focus Network, local church networks, national church organizations and our insurance company, and making every effort to comply with CDC and statewide health guidelines - we will carefully reopen using a phased approach under the following guidelines.

Your Choice for You and Your Family

All persons attend church services at their own discretion.

While every effort is being made to keep people safe, we cannot fully eliminate the risk. There is no requirement for anyone to attend. Services will continue online.

NC4 Reopening Guidelines

PHASE 1 - Beginning 6/21/20

We will adjust accordingly over time as we learn and are advised by authorities.

- **Pre-Registration** - will be required for services so we can limit attendance to a safe percentage of total capacity to allow us to keep 6' apart. Registration will be available one week before the coming Sunday's service. This will also prevent people from making the trip and not having a seat.
 - Phase 1 seating will begin with 25% of capacity (150 in Bethlehem, 50 in Macungie).
 - Registration will also provide us with a Contact Tracing capability should someone later test positive and we need to notify those who attended that same service.
 - A small number of seats will be reserved for unregistered guests, who will be questioned for health risks, registered and given masks. We do not intend to turn guests away.
- **Who Should Refrain from Coming?** - We ask the following two groups to refrain from attending church services during Phase 1 and to continue to join us online:
 - People who are symptomatic or running a fever
 - People of all ages with pre-existing conditions that render them immunocompromisedAdditionally,
 - We strongly encourage people who work with or who are exposed to Covid-19 patients to continue to participate online. Please use your professional judgment.
 - Seniors and families with younger children may want to continue to join us online.
- **Wear Masks** - During Phase 1, everyone age 10 and over will wear masks that cover our mouths and noses. Only the worship team and speaker are exempt while they are on stage. We encourage you to bring your own mask. We will have a limited number available to hand out, if needed. Masks are encouraged but at the discretion of parents for children ages 3-9.
- **No Handshaking or Hugging** – please refrain from physical contact and be aware of others and their comfort level. Be respectful and practice safe distancing, as hard as that may be.
- **Staggered Rows & Open Seats** - will be used to maintain a safe distance between families/individuals. Trained volunteers will assist with seating.
- **One Way Entrances, Exits & Stairs** - will be in effect wherever possible. The Bethlehem elevator will be restricted to one family at a time.

- **One Hour Services** – to reduce exposure risk, services will be modified to one hour. Pastor Jack has prepared a liturgical format with worship, prayer, prophetic and a short teaching.
- **Children’s Ministry** - There will be no Nursery or Sunday School during Phase 1. There will be Bible story coloring materials available at the entrance for kids while they sit in the service. The Bethlehem Mothers’ Nursing Room will be available for single use and sanitized in between uses.
- **Bathrooms** – access will be limited to the bathrooms off of the sanctuary only, and every effort should be made to use them for urgent needs only. Touchless faucets have been installed. Sanitizing protocols signs will be posted. Other parts of the buildings are off limits.
- **Hand Sanitizer** - will be located throughout the building for all to use regularly.
- **Doors Will Remain Open** - in as many interior locations as possible during the church service for maximum ventilation and for entrance and exit with minimal contact with different surfaces. HVAC units have been adjusted for maximum flow of outside air and minimal recirculation and some windows will be open.
- **Signs** - on seats and for certain protocols will be throughout the building & restrooms.
- **Communion** - will not be taken during Phase 1. Subsequent phases will use prepackaged elements on Communion Sundays.
- **Pre & After-Service Prayer and Altar Ministry** – will not occur during Phase 1. We hope to resume once we successfully navigate these initial protocols.
- **Dismissals** – will be directed by row starting from the rear to maintain social distancing. Please exit the building immediately. It’s safer to speak with friends outside.

Throughout the services, elders, staff and trained volunteers and building personnel will be available to assist with seating, specific needs or concerns, and any questions you may have.

With your gracious help and cooperation, we will conscientiously provide the safest environment possible. For those unable, uncomfortable, or part of our “at risk” category, our livestreaming will continue as always. Watch us at nc4.org.