

NC4 Sunday Service Guidelines
Phase 2 Begins Sunday, September 13, 2020 10AM
Bethlehem & Macungie Campuses

Background

Guiding Verse

Love your neighbor as yourself. Matt 22:39

Implication & Expectation

We 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
Our decisions are motivated by love and protection, not fear.

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. 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 continue to 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 2 - Beginning 9/13/20

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

- **Pre-Registration** - will continue to be required for services so we are able to limit attendance to a safe percentage of capacity that allows us to keep 6' apart. Registration will be available for one week starting each Monday at noon for the coming Sunday's service. This will also prevent people from making the trip and not having a seat.
 - Phase 2 seating capacity that accommodates safe distancing is approx. 150 in Bethlehem and 70 in Macungie (very much depends on the mix of singles, couples, and larger families, which is why pre-registration is needed)
 - To maximize seating, we are encouraging people who socialize together outside of NC4 to sit together at church events. There is a new spot on the registration form to indicate the people/families you are comfortable sitting next to without social distancing.
 - A small number of seats will be reserved for unregistered guests, who will be welcomed, informed of guidelines, registered and offered masks. We do not intend to turn guests away.
- **Who Should Refrain from Coming?** - We ask the following groups to refrain from attending church services during Phase 2 and to continue to join us online:
 - People who are symptomatic or running a fever
 - Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and since then has not yet had a negative test result or been medically cleared
 - People who have been exposed to others who have tested positive for Covid-19 within the past 14 days and were not wearing sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) or have not since been tested with a negative result
 - Note: It is recommended that people of all ages with pre-existing conditions that render them immunocompromised weigh the risks whenever they go anywhere.
- **Wear Masks** - During Phase 2, everyone ages 10 and over will continue to wear masks that cover our mouths and noses. During this phase, you can now remove your mask when seated and not singing. 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 or Removed Rows & Open Seats** - will be used to maintain a safe distance between families/individuals. Trained volunteers will assist with seating.

- **Limited Elevator Usage** - the Bethlehem elevator will be restricted to one family, or socializing unit, at a time.
- **Children's Ministry** – In Phase 2, we are evaluating the needs of the congregation and plan to offer either a Kids Church option (kids have their own worship and lesson, remaining in the Fellowship Hall for the entire service) or a Family Zone format (families reserve tables in the Fellowship Hall where the message will be livestreamed; no formal lesson for the kids, but allows more space and more flexibility with noise). Check with your campus to see what is planned. For families who choose to remain in the sanctuary, there is now a family-friendly area with books and toys for younger kids to spread out. We will continue to offer Bible story coloring materials at the entrance for the kids. The Bethlehem Campus Mothers' Nursing Room will continue to be available for single use and sanitized in between uses. A private Mothers' Nursing Area has been created in the hallway outside the sanctuary doors at our Macungie Campus.
- **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 are posted. Other parts of the buildings remain off limits for everyone's protection and to minimize re-sanitizing workload.
- **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** - we will use prepackaged elements on Communion Sundays and at some special events.
- **Pre & After-Service Prayer and Altar Ministry** – will not occur during Phase 2. We are incorporating some opportunities within the service and are working on plans to resume more regularly in the next phase.
- **Dismissals** – Please maintain social distancing and 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.