

FAQs for Sunday's Back at Bethany

We will expand activities on campus starting November 8, 2020 to offer more opportunities for people to engage in person. We recognize that there are a number of different opinions across our congregation when it comes to worship and fellowship at Bethany. People assess the risks associated with their personal health as well as the threat of spreading or contracting COVID from interactions with people. Based on this, they make a personal decision about whether they want to participate in person at events on campus or whether they prefer to minimize the potential for virus spread by participating online. We respect everyone's perspective and their right to choose how they prefer to engage in Bethany activities. We have established mechanisms for people that want to worship in person as well as those who want to remain isolated.

We cannot guarantee a germ-free experience when on campus. It is up to each individual to understand the provisions we have in place to minimize infectious spread and to make a determination as to whether the cleaning protocols and requirements for masks and social distancing are within their risk tolerance level.

This document provides more information about the activities on campus so that you can make an informed decision about participating.

FAQs for Cleaning and Safety Protocols

Q. What will people be required to do when participating in on-campus activities?

A. We have strived to create a safe environment for all on-campus events based on guidelines published by the CDC. For the immediate future, we will continue to require masks for all people older than 10 years of age (and recommend masks for anyone over the age of 2). We will strictly enforce social distancing while participating in any activity on campus. We will also provide hand sanitizer and encourage frequent hand washing to minimize viral spread. Should someone on campus appear to be ill, we will request that they leave the campus until they no longer exhibit signs of illness. It is incumbent on all of us to do our part to keep our Bethany family as safe as possible.

The CDC states that the primary and most important mode of transmission for COVID-19 is through close contact from person-to-person (aerosols from coughing, sneezing, talking, singing, etc.). This is why we continue to require masks and social distancing at all events.

Q. What is being done to reduce the risk of contagion from potentially contaminated surfaces at Bethany?

A. The CDC states that it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. **This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads**, but the CDC is still learning more about how this virus spreads. Since the likelihood of catching COVID from surfaces is low, our cleaning protocol will be as follows:

- We will provide hand sanitizer in close proximity to or in each meeting or worship service
- We will use the electrostatic cleaning system on Friday evenings for high use rooms including the Worship Center. This system ensures that all surfaces are cleaned with a

disinfectant. It should be noted that after cleaning, once a surface has been touched, it has the potential for the virus to remain on it.

- The facilities team will clean all high use surfaces every day (light switches, door handles, handrails, restrooms, counter tops, conference room tables, receptionist desktop/shelf, etc.) in areas that have had activity.
- We plan to wipe down all high touch surfaces in the Worship Center, Fellowship Hall and Cornerstone before services prior to allowing people in for the next service.

Q. What is being done to reduce the risk at outdoor activities?

A. The CDC indicates that activities are safer when conducted outdoors where there is better ventilation. This does not preclude the need to wear masks or maintain 6 ft spacing between family units. Based on this information, we have established many outside opportunities for people to gather for worship and fellowship with rules in place to be as safe as possible. For outdoor gatherings, we will offer hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies for people that want to wipe down chairs, tables or other equipment before use.

Q. What are you doing to reduce germs in areas where children will be active?

A. Cleaning in Nursery and Children areas on Sunday mornings will be more frequent and will encompass the following items:

Nursery (Infant, Toddler and 2's)

- After baby or toddler is done playing with toy, the toy will be placed in a bin of toys to be cleaned. At the end of nursery care, toys will be cleaned with Lysol wipes, soap and water.
- Changing areas will be wiped down after each use.
- Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizer available.
- One Nursery Staff will be dedicated to cleaning high touch point surfaces throughout Sunday morning.

Fellowship Hall

- Floor mats will be replaced between worship hours, along with any activity materials needed for games and activities.
- Water fountains will be blocked off and not available for use.
- Fellowship Hall will be cleaned prior to Sunday morning. Children's Ministry Staff will clean high touch surfaces during Sunday morning programming.

FAQs for Worship

Note that we have created a video that will answers many questions around the worship experience while we are still under COVID restrictions. Link to Video [HERE](#).

Q. Do I still need to reserve a seat for worship?

A. Yes, for the foreseeable future. If you have problems with the online reservation system, you can email Tina Merrill (tina.merrill@bethany-umc.org) to reserve a seat. We will also allow people who forgot to make reservations to check in at the Worship Center as long as our reserved seats for that service are below the limit required to maintain social distancing.

Q. Are masks required in worship?

A. Yes. If you are uncomfortable with wearing a mask, please continue to worship online.

Q. Can I sit anywhere?

A. No, you will be seated by the Ushers in seats to ensure that we maintain the 6 ft spacing between family groups. Please do not change seats after you have been seated.

Q. Will the Shuttle service be offered?

A. At this point, the Shuttle will not be operating. We encourage people without physical restrictions to park in the outer lots to allow for more spaces for our members that struggle to walk longer distances.

Q. Will we be allowed to access restrooms while in the Worship Center?

A. Yes, restrooms will be open on Sunday mornings in the Worship Center.

FAQ for Outdoor Adult Sunday School Classes and Grow Groups

Q: Where are the outdoor spaces for groups to meet?

A: We have identified 10 spots around campus for groups to meet outdoors. You will find out what spot your group has after you use the online form to request space for your group.

Q: How many people can meet together in an outside group space?

A: Group size is limited by how many people can remain 6 ft apart while still being able to hear one another and participate in the group together. We are recommending that outside groups have 10 or fewer people, but we are willing to make exceptions for Sunday School classes and Grow Groups that have more than that. For larger classes, we are recommending that they split into multiple sub-groups. We could work with you to reserve multiple outdoor spaces that are close together to help facilitate this.

Q: How can my group reserve outdoor space to meet?

A: Class and group leaders should use the [online form](#) to request outdoor meeting space. This needs to be done at least 3 days before your meeting time for the first time your group will meet. It can be a recurring weekly meeting after that.

Q: Will chairs be provided, or do we need to bring our own?

A: Please plan to bring your own lawn chairs, especially if your group is meeting on Sunday mornings. There will be a limited number of chairs available at some of the outdoor locations for groups to use, but we cannot guarantee that your group will be able to use them or that there will be enough for everyone in your group.

Q: If I am not currently in a class or group that is meeting outdoors, how can I be part of one?

A: You can find a list of Sunday School classes and Grow Groups that are meeting outdoors on the Bethany campus [HERE](#). To get help finding a group that is right for you, contact Pastor Thomas Johnson, thomas.johnson@bethany-umc.org.

FAQ for Youth Activities

Q. Can I bring my student to MYF (youth group) and drop them off?

A: Yes, we will meet in the parking lot until further notice. We will check in students outside in the Ark Drive-thru area. We will then participate in small groups, worship and games. We will have small groups from 6:00-6:30, Worship 6:30-7:00 and games 7:00-7:30. Please plan to drop off and pick up your student from the Ark and plan for them to stay for the duration of MYF.

Q. Will dinner be served?

A. No. We will have a food truck every other week when we have church wide Drive In Worship. Watch for announcements on which food truck will be coming, generally we just offer dessert trucks.

Q. What time will MYF (youth group) start and end?

A. 6:00-7:30 p.m. We will have small groups 6:00-6:30, worship 6:30-7:00 and games 7:00-7:30.

Q. If my student is not currently in a “small group” can they still come at 6:00?

A. Yes! We will assign them a small group.

Q. Will social distancing and mask wearing be required?

A. We will ask students and adults to wear masks when 6ft. of social distancing cannot be maintained.

Q. What time is Youth Sunday School?

A. Youth Sunday School is each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. Currently, we do not have enough student interest or volunteers to staff 9:30 Sunday School for youth.

FAQs for Children’s Ministry

Q. What will be offered for Children on Sunday mornings?

A. At 9:30, we will offer Nursery & Socially Distanced Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. At 11:00, we will provide Nursery care for children under 12 yrs.

Q. Do I need to make reservations for my children?

A. Yes. Please click on this [link](#) to reserve a spot so that we can ensure that we have sufficient staffing to cover the number of children.

Q. What is the process for dropping off my children?

A. **Check in begins at 9:15 AM** - All children in the Nursery and Sunday School must be checked in by a parent in the foyer of the fellowship hall.

Check in will be electronic - Each child will receive a name tag label with parent's contact information.

Nursery & Pre-K - Parents will walk their children to their rooms.

Grades K-5 - Will meet in the gym.

Pick up at 10:30 AM - A parent needs to pick up children at the conclusion of the 9:30 AM worship service.

Q. Where will my child go?

A. Nursery (birth-3 years) will be in the Fellowship Hall F104 & F105. Pre-K (3-5 years old) will be in Fellowship Hall F108 (note that they must have turned 3 by August 31 and not yet in Kindergarten). Elementary (Grades K-5) will be in the Fellowship Hall Gym.

Q. What safety precautions will be used?

A. All Children's Ministry Staff, Nursery Staff and Volunteers have received training and passed a background check. All Children's Ministry Staff, Nursery Staff and Volunteers will wear masks at all times, sanitize high touch point surfaces and stay home if they are experiencing any COVID symptoms.

We recommend all children in grades K-5 wear a mask while in the Fellowship Hall Building.

All parents will be required to wear a mask while in the Fellowship Hall Building

Each family is asked to self-check at home for temperature and COVID symptoms prior to arrival on Sunday mornings. If family member is tested positive or has been exposed to COVID we request that anyone having exposure to please wait 14 days before returning to campus.

The water fountain will be closed. Please send a personal water bottle for your child.