



Bethel Baptist Church
Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
2020 Theme: “Doing a Great Work Together”

Mission Statement - BBC: *Building Hope, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives*
Our vision: To be the premier church in Westchester County; serving as a beacon of hope to individuals, families, the community, and the world through our worship, our walk, and our witness.
Foundational Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16

August 11, 2020

Dear Bethel Family Members:

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
James 1:5

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a time where faith, knowledge, and wisdom are needed as we navigate our way through the coronavirus pandemic crisis. The church board and I have been working together as a reentry committee to prepare the church building for reentry and to develop a strategy for in-person worship services to resume beginning Sunday, September 6th. Our reentry process will be implemented in stages and follow guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, local and state government officials, and guidelines from religious and other organizational reopening resources.

We ask that our members and friends work with us as we seek to comply with the available health and safety regulations and recommendations to reduce and hopefully eliminate risks associated with infection and spreading of this dangerous and life threatening disease. We will be enacting practices and following procedures designed to promote a healthy and safe in-person worship experience for those who chose to attend. Those choosing to attend will be expected to comply with all practices and procedures that will be implemented. For those who chose not to attend, services will continue to be streamed on livestream, our Facebook page, and our YouTube channel. Small group in-person ministry meetings will not be a part of the initial phases of the reentry plan. These groups will continue to meet using Zoom or free-conference-call meetings.

Attached you will find a copy of the reentry policies and procedures plan. Keep in mind that this document is fluid and can be amended at any time deemed necessary. We need your prayers, cooperation, and support to successfully resume in-person worship services and to initiate the resumption of additional programs and ministries in the future. Remember, “We’re all in this together, being the church God has called us to be.”

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Williamson

Bethel Baptist Church

Reentry Policies and Procedures



Please read this entire document

PHASE 1: Reentry Date: Sunday, September 6, 2020 – 25 Attendees

All attendees are asked to adhere to the following policies and procedures:

1. Individuals and/or families wishing to attend in-person worship services are asked to call the church office to reserve seating Monday through Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Reservations for attendees will be rotated to allow for the most possible individuals wishing to attend to have an opportunity to attend. For families to sit together, they must live in the same household and travel to the church together. (Due to social distancing practices, family units sitting together will be limited to a maximum of five.)
2. **Screening**: Members will be asked to self-screen before attending in-person worship service. Onsite screening will include a brief questionnaire, temperature screening, and signing of a voluntary agreement to attend in-person worship service and comply with policies, procedures, and directives. If you are sick, have a fever or COVID 19 symptoms, please do not attend. If you have fever above 100.4 degrees F or display symptoms of COVID 19, you will not be admitted into the sanctuary. If you have had COVID 19 or been in contact with an individual who has had COVID 19, please comply with directions of local health officials and physician recommendations.
3. **Face Mask** will be required for all persons entering the building and participating in, in-person worship service. Face masks will be provided for individuals who do not have a face mask or adequate facial covering protection. This is a mandatory requirement.
4. All persons attending in-person worship will be encouraged to practice social distancing by standing or sitting at least six (6) feet apart from others in attendance. Family members who live in the same household and travel together will be allowed to sit together.

5. Bring your own bottled water if needed for medicine or other purposes. Water fountains will not be accessible. (We will continue our policy of **NO DRINKING Or EATING INSIDE THE SANCTUARY**).
6. No bibles, hymnals, or bulletins will be provided. (Attendees may bring personal bibles; Media screens will also be used to post scriptures, announcements, etc.)
7. Use designated entrances and exits. Follow instructions for entering and exiting the church as directed by the Trustees and/or Deacons. Trustees and/or Deacons will assist members with seating. Tags and numbers will be placed on pews for social distancing purposes and seating assignments.
8. Attendees are encouraged not to shake hands and to avoid other physical contact while attending in-person worship. Use of the hand over the heart and a nod of the head or wave are recommended gestures. The wearing of gloves is permissible and hand washing or use of hand sanitizer is recommended as needed by in-person worship participants.
9. Attendees must use designated restrooms on the lower level and in the nurses' station for those who cannot use stairs. ALL other bathrooms will not be accessible for use by in-person worship attendees.
10. Attendees are encouraged not to gather in groups before or after worship service.
11. Offering Procedure: Offerings will be collected as in-person worship attendees exit the sanctuary following the worship service. All worshipers may choose to use online giving, mail-in, or drop off for tithes and offerings.
12. Communion Procedure: On Sundays when Holy Communion is celebrated, elements will be given to attendees upon entering the sanctuary. The communion service will be celebrated at the end of the service jointly with online worshipers at the end of the service. Waste containers will be provided for attendees to dispose of used cups upon exiting the sanctuary.
13. Invitation and member intake procedure: An invitation for discipleship will continue to be offered at the end of each worship service. Persons responding during the invitation time will be asked to stand in place and be acknowledged. Deacons will meet person(s) responding after worship service in the fellowship hall to collect contact information. Additional information and communication will be made via telephone, Zoom, or e-mail.
14. All in-person worship participants are asked to comply with instructions and directions of pastor, deacons, and trustees regarding entering and exiting the sanctuary, and movement during the worship experience.
15. In the event of an in-person worship participant, volunteer, or staff member testing positive for COVID 19, local health authorities will be notified, individuals that had contact with the individual will be notified, and appropriate quarantine and disinfecting of the area or areas of possible contamination will be cleaned and disinfected according to recommended guidelines and standards. The building and sanctuary will be regularly cleaned and disinfected after worship service and other areas used will be cleaned on a regular basis.

Part 2: Additional Policies and Procedures.

1. No van transportation will be provided during the initial stages of the reentry process.
2. No in-person evening meetings or small group meetings will be held in the church building for the immediate future. Ministries and small groups are encouraged to continue meetings and small groups through using social media platforms and conference call technology.
3. No Wednesday in-person services will be held in the building for the immediate future.

Part 3: Four Phase Re-entry Plan

Bethel Baptist Church Has Created Four Phases for Re-Opening

Phase 1: In-person Worship Resumes 25 worshipers – Date: Sunday, September 6

Phase 1: 25 Worshipers – Date: Sunday, September 13

Phase 2: 50 Worshipers – Date: Sunday, September 20

Phase 2: 50 Worshipers – Date: Sunday, September 27

Phase 3: 75 Worshipers – Date: Sunday, October 4

Phase 3: 75 Worshipers – Date Sundays, October 11, 18, and 25

Phase 4: 100 Worshipers – Date Sundays, November and December*

Note: Implementation of this reentry plan will be adjusted based upon coronavirus activity in our local area and emerging recommendations and guidelines upward or downward as necessary.

Members and Guest Wishing To Attend In-Person Worship Services Must Call the Church Office between Monday – Wednesday (9:00am – 1:00pm) To Reserve Seating 914-949-2792