

FUMC Bedford Written Plan for Returning to In-Person Worship

- What will social distancing look like in your worship space? We are limiting entrance to our sanctuary to two doors with sanitizing stations and face masks. All common foyer areas will be roped off, with tables and chairs (and coffee) put away. We will be using only every other pew. Each pew will be limited in number and will be marked to maintain 6ft spacing. Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating expectations of social distancing, face masks, and proper hygiene. Greeters at door will also remind people of social distancing.
- How will you ensure good hygiene of your congregation? Where will hand sanitizer stations be? How will you encourage people to use their elbow to cover coughs, and not touching their face? Who will tell folks they must sanitize their hands and wear a mask before entering the building? We will limit access to building to two doors that will be equipped with hand sanitizer and masks. Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating expectations of social distancing, face masks, and proper hygiene. An explanation will also be in the worship guide and reinforced from the pulpit.
- Who will be responsible for environmental cleanliness and sanitization between services? How will you clean and disinfect areas? What products will you use? What schedule will you follow? We only have one service. Between services, custodial staff will use commercial sanitizers in all common areas.
- Will you have your restrooms open? The Governor is recommending that we not have public restrooms at this time. Given the age and medical requirements of our congregation, we do not believe we can shut down our restrooms. We do plan to limit the number of people, close one urinal and to provide a means for people to sanitize while in use.
- How will you encourage all attendees who are 65 and above to stay at home? Who will be responsible for explaining, why they cannot attend a worship service when they show up? Will you provide a “senior service” exclusively for attendees 65 and above to attend in person? Our average attendance is close to, if not exceeding 65. Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating, those who are worried to continue to worshipping with us online.
- Who will be responsible for telling all attendees who have an underlying at-risk health condition to stay home and watch the services online? Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating, those who are worried or at high risk to continue to worship with us online.
- What accommodations will be made for ushers and greeters to use gloves and masks? Do not use printed bulletins which could be handled by multiple people. Ushers will be needed to help answer questions and give directions. We will not be passing a plate for the offering. There will be several plates at front of Sanctuary that people will be able to place their tithes and offering.
- How will you make sure everyone who enters the building has a mask on? Will you provide masks? Is there someone in your church who can make those? How will they

be cleaned after use? Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating, that those who already have masks to bring them. Greeters at entry doors will have hand sanitizer and mask for those who do not have one. We will be giving disposable masks for those who do not bring their own.

- What are you going to do about those who show up with children in need of childcare? Childcare should not be available, unless the house of worship can comply with CDC guidelines for childcare facilities. We have an operating daycare that meets or exceeds all CDC guidelines. Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating that for the near future we will not have a nursery available. We will make available activities and coloring sheets for children to do while sitting with their parents. These will be individually packaged and meant for single use.
- How will it be communicated that attendees sit with their family unit, use social distancing between each unit? Will you need to add more service times to facilitate distancing. Announcements and messages will be sent out beforehand stating that family groups are encouraged to sit together. Greeters and ushers will also be there to help direct people. We will not need to add more service times.
- What plan will be used by the pastor to dismiss attendees by family unit, maintaining social distancing? We plan to dismiss, in the same manner as we instruct people to come forward to take communion, row by row.
- How will offerings be collected and counted to ensure the safety of your counters? Currency is a carrier of the virus, you will need to have a centralized collection box, no passing the plate. Several plates will be placed by the altar rail, and people who handle money will use gloves.
- What will be the plan for the sacraments? How can you administered them without attendees having to touch the same surfaces and objects? We will be doing communion with the individually packaged communion cup and wafer. The altar rail will not be used.