

BETHEL
CHURCH

BETHEL CHURCH RE-GATHERING

OVERVIEW

STAGE 1: May 10th Resume in-building gatherings of small groups

STAGE 2: TARGET DATE June 7th Resume in-building gatherings of medium size groups

STAGE 3: TARGET DATE July 5 Resume gatherings of groups of any size

LETTER FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

Dear Bethel Family:

The past few months have been a very interesting season. Many of us have faced some significant emotional, financial, social and spiritual challenges. We have prayed that God would heal our land and I believe that God has been merciful and gracious and has heard the prayers of His people.

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic officially arrived in our area early this Spring, we met one week in the building in a limited capacity and then immediately moved to the drive-thru service model. God has been good to Bethel and to our city. On Easter, we were able to take what God had given us and share it with the entire city as we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. Again, I cannot overstate the goodness of God. Even still, God took what we did and published it across the nation with various news outlets including Time Magazine and the Denver Channel. We have clearly been under His blessing during this time of restricted gathering.

On May 1st, Governor Eric Holcomb gave the following direction to churches during his COVID-19 Update: "...let me make this one point clear: Starting May 8th, for all 92 Indiana counties, indoor worship services may also convene, following specific social distancing guidelines – while those 65 and older and those at elevated risk will be asked to stay home. Our preference is that you continue virtual and outdoor services. And church leaders – we need you to keep your congregations safe."

As our government leaders are beginning the process of re-opening the state, we desired to have a plan that adheres to guidelines and at the same time honors God and the safety of our people. In lieu of that, we are setting forth a step-wise plan of re-gathering in the building. While we realize that this is not a perfect plan, we have tried to balance a number of items. With these types of decisions, I realize some will feel that we should immediately return to traditional church services as we had 6 months ago complete with hugs and handshakes. Others may have significant concerns with sitting next to someone for many weeks and even months. As your leaders and elders, we have prayed and sought counsel to create a Godly plan to safely re-gather.

Re-gathering in the building of Bethel Church will occur in 3 stages. The target dates may be adjusted based on future guidelines from state/local officials. The primary goal in the staged re-gathering in the auditorium is to honor God by following the guidelines set forth by our government leaders and to reduce the risk of any potential resurgence. We want to continue to create an environment conducive to spiritual and physical well-being but we do not want to live in fear. As we have said before, **Faith Flattens Fear!**

The following document identifies the key components of ministry in each of 3 stages. As each stage progresses to the next, the gathering size increases and the age demographic of the participants widens.

Please continue to pray that God will give us great wisdom in the days ahead.

Dr. Prince

STAGES

STAGE 1: Resume in-building gatherings of small groups

MAY 10th

- Drive-In Services will continue 9:30am & 11am with vehicle distancing (less stringent window opening guidelines as the temperature becomes warmer in May)
- There will be **NO 8:15am** drive-in service
- College Ministry (low-risk group) will begin to gather with respect to distancing, sanitation, attendance and age guidelines
- Celebrate Recovery will also resume on a limited basis with respect to the guidelines
- Limited small groups (<25) may gather in the building following guidelines (Please email bethyoung@bethelevv.com to reserve a space)
- We ask that those in the high-risk population continue to join us online from the safety of your home or vehicle

STAGE 2: Resume in-building gatherings of medium size groups

JUNE 7th

- Resume in-building live family services at 8:15am, 9:30am and 11am based on zip code demographics
- Drive-in service will no longer be offered
- MS/HS Ministry, Family Ministry, Pointman and Evergreen may resume with respect to distancing, sanitation, attendance and age guidelines (Please email bethyoung@bethelevv.com to reserve a space)
- We ask that those in the high-risk population continue to join us online from the safety of your homes
- No childcare/kids service will be available
- No food/coffee service

STAGES

STAGE 3: Resume in-building gatherings of groups of any size

JULY 5th

- **Worship Services @ 9:30AM and 11AM.**
- No childcare/kids service will be available
- Resume Food/Coffee/Communion Service

POST JULY 5th

Beginning July 12th, we will resume our normal Sunday worship services at **9:30AM and 11AM** in the auditorium. We will resume full programming for all age groups including BLOCKS Classes, Adult Bible Class and Kids Programming. Please remember that these are target dates which are subject to change pending any adverse changes in our community.