
***this document is in effect Sunday, September 13th, 2020
each answer is subject to change***

INTRODUCTION

There have been many changes to CBC during the recent pandemic. This document will help to answer some common questions. Please feel free to contact the main office at 717.426.1345 or office@bcpcpa.org if you have additional questions.

Each person and family will need to decide for themselves what is best for their situation regarding possible exposure to COVID-19. Some will choose to stay at home for the time being and participate through the livestreamed service and other digital means for connection. Others will choose to meet face to face. As a church family, we want to show grace to each other in the decisions we make for our families. The most important thing is that we continue being the church. Let's continue doing the work of encouraging one another and building each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is being done to limit possible contagion in the worship services?

Answer: The seating rows in our worship area have been spread at six-foot intervals to help physically distance people. We are limiting the number of people in the worship area to no more than 275, which is less than 50% of our max capacity at 750 (first service is limited to 225 people). We are requiring everyone to register for services so we can stay within the above limits. We also are asking that people arrive through the main entrance of the building and make their way straight to the worship area so that no one is lingering in the more enclosed lobby area. Attendance to the first service requires that masks be worn (see Q #5). Masks are not required for the second and third services.

2. Why is CBC having in-person services when the state government says large groups can't meet?

Answer: The church is considered an essential organization and is not required to follow this mandate of the state government. In fact, leaders from CBC have been on conference calls with PA Health Secretary Dr. Levine who has assured us that the state desires churches to still be meeting as they recognize the positive spiritual and emotional impact churches have on people. CBC leaders ultimately are the leaders of the church under the headship of Jesus and will make decisions about how CBC functions. CBC leaders take state and national CDC guidelines into account when making decisions.

3. Why would CBC not follow the state order for wearing masks in houses of worship?

Answer: [Click here](#) to see Senior Pastor Jeff Burkholder's response, supported by church elders.

WORSHIP GATHERING QUESTIONS

4. **What are the different options to participate in a worship service?**

Answer: If you choose to attend a service in person you can choose to come to our first service which is a mask required service. You can also choose to come to the second or third service which do not require masks, but still encourage physical distancing. If you choose to stay home, you can participate in our worship service through the livestream during second service or watch it anytime afterwards. The livestream is available at <http://cbcpc.org/>, YouTube (CBC Marietta), Vimeo (CBC Social Media), and Facebook (@cbcmarietta).

5. **Who is required to wear masks at the “mask required” first service?**

Answer: Everyone who is present in the lobby and on the floor of the worship area will be required to wear masks. This includes greeters and welcome center staff who you may interact with. The pastor, worship leader and others on stage will not be wearing masks, as it would hinder your ability to hear them clearly and/or lead worship well. Tech team individuals who are in the mezzanine booth separated from the floor are not required to wear masks. However, when all of these individuals are on the worship area floor with the congregation or in the lobby, they will be required to wear a mask.

6. **Can I still come to the worship service if I am ill or I have been ill?**

Answer: We are asking anyone with an illness or who has been in contact with an ill person in their immediate family to watch the livestream at home. If you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 we ask that you would refrain from attending in-person services until the recommended time has passed, following the CDC guidelines (Found in Q #25).

7. **Am I still able to hang out and talk to people in the church before and after the services?**

Answer: We are always excited to see people hanging out in conversation. Yet, for this time we request that people do not linger in the lobby and only use that space for traveling into the worship area from the main entrance. Once in the worship area, we ask that people find their seats and then converse with people around them. When the service is finished, we request that everyone leaves the worship area through the side exit doors. Just outside the side doors there is a space where we encourage people to hang out and talk. This will allow people time to keep the lobby from overcrowding and allow teams to clean and prepare the lobby and worship area between services.

8. **Why do I have to register to come to one of the services and will my name be given to the state?**

We are requiring people to register to come to services so we can keep a limit of people per service without turning people away at the door. This allows us to be assured people are as spread out as possible in the worship service area. People's names are checked off at the worship area doors for our own purposes. Names are not taken for the purpose of being given to the state and we are not required to do so.

9. **Will there be a “meet and greet” or “shake your neighbors’ hand” time in the service?**

Answer: No.

10. **Will there be an offering plate passed in the service?**

Answer: No. Offering boxes are placed at the entrance of the worship area. We are encouraging people to use the electronic giving features on the CBC app, text to give, physical checks, and using digital giving in Realm (it's like Facebook for church). If possible, we are recommending people not to use cash for the time being in hopes to limit the passing of any viruses.

11. Is there a program/bulletin?

Answer: Yes. There is a digital Program and Message Notes found on the CBC app, the links on the Facebook livestream, and the blue buttons beside the livestream on our website. The CBC app can be found at your device's app store as "CBC Marietta." Physical Message Notes can also be picked up at the entrance to the worship area.

12. Will we continue offering virtual worship online?

Answer: Yes. The second service at CBC will always be livestreamed.

13. Should I come to the service if I'm over 65 or have health concerns?

Answer: We suggest that you do what you feel is necessary to protect your health. If that means not coming to our in-person services, we encourage you to make the best choice you can make for your health and that of your family. Please feel no guilt or shame in that choice if you decide to stay at home. We encourage you to watch our service on the livestream (see Q #4).

14. Do I need to practice social distancing in the church building?

Answer: We encourage you to practice physical distancing as stated in the CDC guidelines (Found in Q #25). This is a way we can love our neighbors as we gather. We recognize that some people will be looking forward to hugs and handshakes, but we ask that everyone is respectful to those around them who may want to keep physical distancing.

ADULT MINISTRY QUESTIONS

15. Are groups meeting?

Answer: Yes! Many groups are meeting. Connect with your group's leaders to see what is happening. Every group is a little different. If you are in a group which typically meets at the church that desires to meet at the church again, the leaders can contact Pastor Nathan King via email at nking@cbcpa.org or call the church office at 717.426.1345 ex. 1338 as soon as possible for a "reservation" so we know how many groups to plan for. Please do not plan any meetings at the church unless you have contacted Pastor Nathan to set up a time and room, so we can ensure appropriate numbers and proper cleaning. This will mean limiting the number of groups meeting at one time. We encourage groups to continue meeting in homes as they are able and many groups are meeting outside when able. If you are not part of a group, we would love to get you connected with one. Please contact Pastor Nathan for more information on how to get connected with a group.

YOUTH MINISTRY QUESTIONS

16. Are Sr High (Student Body) and Jr High (TNT) groups meeting?

Answer: Senior High groups are meeting in homes on Sunday evenings. Senior High and Junior High groups meet on Wednesday nights at the CBC building. There are no youth gatherings on Sunday mornings to allow teenagers to attend church with their families.

17. Is my teenager encouraged to wear a mask in youth meetings?

Answer: We encourage people to follow the CDC guidelines (found in Q #25), but it is not required.

CHILDREN MINISTRY QUESTIONS

18. When will Children's Ministry restart on Sunday mornings?

Answer: Children's Ministry will only be held during the second and third services. There will be no Children's Ministry during first service.

19. Are Awana Clubs still happening?

Answer: Awana Clubs for the fall of 2020 have been canceled. We hope to restart Awana Clubs in January of 2021, but we hold it loosely.

20. Will my child have to wear a mask in Children's Ministry?

Answer: No. Children are not required to wear masks but may do so. We leave it to each child's parents to decide if their child should wear a mask.

21. Will my child be physically distanced with others?

Answer: No. We are not requiring physical distancing.

22. Will my child's teacher be wearing a mask?

Answer: Yes. All teachers in Children's Ministry are required to wear a mask. They are encouraged to wear masks that are clear so the children can see their faces and they can connect better relationally. Teachers who are presenting in the front of the room may remove their mask as long as they are more than 6' away from the children.

23. Will temperatures be taken?

Answer: Yes. Temperatures of all children and anyone entering the children's area will be taken before entering the children's areas. If someone has a temperature of 100.4° or higher, they will be asked to come back once their temperature has dropped. If you, your child, or someone in your family has been ill, please wait a week before coming and joining us.

24. Would my child's classroom be sanitized before they arrive?

Answer: Yes. Every room being used in Children's Ministry will be sanitized before your child arrives.

CDC GUIDELINES

25. Where can I find the CDC Guidelines that are mentioned in the questions above?

Answer: Please follow this link to see the CDC guidelines for Community and Faith-Based Organizations.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>