



May 21, 2020

Beechwold Family and Friends,

For the past eleven weeks, our staff and leadership have committed to following the guidelines recommended by our State government to ensure the health and safety of all who call Beechwold their church. It has been a trying time for many, yet it has also been an encouraging time for our church to creatively find ways to fellowship with one another, encourage one another, worship with one voice, and grow in Christ together. I have been most impressed with your generosity in our offerings, but especially to our benevolence and food pantry. So many have been blessed in a time of hardship because of your giving heart. As State restrictions begin to be lifted, we plan to begin implementing three different phases of worship in the building starting Sunday, May 31st.

In this document, you will find the following:

- **Beechwold's evolving and adapting 3 Phase approach to reopening**
- **Our PPE response and cleaning protocol**
- **Some FAQ's about reopening and processes**

This is a time of celebration, but also a time of caution. While its author states in Hebrews 10:24-25 that we are not to give up meeting with one another, we need to be cautious in ensuring that we are doing everything in our power to meet responsibly and in a manner that looks out for the spiritual AND physical health of all involved. We aren't expecting to get things 100% right as we begin each phase, so we want to allow for there to be flexibility and adaptability to make each phase work the best for Beechwold. It's with that thought process that we have created this fluid document to help all of us be on the same page.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Van Buskirk'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Dave' being the most prominent.

Dave Van Buskirk
Lead Minister, Beechwold Christian Church

Update on 9/29/2020

This document has been updated with more current information regarding Beechwold's Three Phase Reopening Plan and procedures. If you have any questions, please don't be afraid to ask.



A. Beechwold's 3 Phase Approach to Reopening

We acknowledge that the federal/state leaders could change their guidelines at any time. All of this document is currently based on the Ohio Governor's guidelines as of September 29, 2020. With this being fluid, we appreciate your patience as we navigate through these phases together.

The leadership and staff have worked to formulate a 3 Phase approach to once again gather in the building for worship. The phases are:

Phase 1— Family Worship Only

Phase 2 —Addition of Children's Worship (Timing and procedures TBD)

Phase 3 — Addition of Adult Fellowship/Study classes, Coffee Fellowship (Timing and procedures TBD)

Phase 1— Family Worship

- We will offer two Family Worship services (9 am and 11 am). Each service will be limited to **100** worshippers (this does not include volunteer workers and staff). Both the 9 am and 11 am services will require all in attendance (excluding those on stage) to wear a mask.
- You can register for the 9 am or 11 am Family Worship online at <https://www.beechwold.org/worship>, by emailing office@beechwoldchristian.org, or by calling the church office at (614) 888-1734.
- All building entrances will be closed except for the North Entrance. Please park in the North Lot and responsibly enter through the open double doors there.
- Masked and gloved greeters will be stationed near entrance doors to welcome everyone and provide directions to any guests. All doors will be propped open to eliminate the need for touching the doors.
- Disposable sealed cup and bread will be on tables outside of each Worship Center entrance for worshippers to pick up before they enter the Worship Center. Offering can be placed in containers that are also located on the tables. Each table will also contain pre-packaged Worship Experience materials for children to be able to interact with the Family Worship service.
- Our Welcome Center will remain closed for now and there will be no bulletins, prayer sheets, etc. in Phase 1.
- Hand Sanitizer Stations will be available at the Worship Center entrances and in the restrooms.
- A nursing room (located in the Women's Restroom) is available for use by mother and infant for changing or feeding. There is also a changing station located in the Men's Restroom for fathers. Instructions and materials for cleaning after use will be posted there.
- Restrooms are available for use. Please practice safe hygiene: washing hands and using hand sanitizer. Please also maintain socially distant in the restrooms.
- Signs will be posted throughout the building promoting social distancing, proper precautions, and locations of available facilities (restrooms, hand sanitizer, etc.).



- Worship leaders and speakers on the stage will practice social distancing, but will not be required to wear a mask. They will remain on the stage through the entirety of the service. Once they leave the stage they will wear a mask when interacting with others.
- For those uncomfortable returning at this time, an online service option will still be provided via Facebook and our website on Sunday mornings at 9 am. This will not contain all the same elements as in-person worship, yet the teaching will be the same.
- Upon entering the Worship Center, families should fill in towards the front of the Worship Center and sit together ONLY in marked open pews. They should leave AT LEAST 6 pew pads between them and another family.
- In Phase 1, we ask that anyone not feeling well or exhibiting any flu/cold symptoms (running a fever, running nose, cough etc.) stay home for the safety of others. If you have been exposed to someone exhibiting those symptoms, we also ask that you please stay home for the safety of others.

Phase 2 – Addition of Children’s Worship

- The staff and leadership will continuously meet to evaluate Phase 1, plan details for Phase 2, and determine a time frame to begin Phase 2.
- This document will be updated to include specifics regarding Phase 2 and then be redistributed.
- The addition of Children’s Worship WILL NOT mean that children cannot sit with their parents during Family Worship. Instead, it will provide a more focused opportunity for children to worship with their peers in a safe environment.
- Online service options will still remain in place.
- Cleaning of facilities after each service will remain in place.

Phase 3 – Addition of Adult Classes and Coffee Fellowship, A Return to “Normal” Sundays

- After Phase 2’s implementation, the staff and leadership will meet to evaluate Phase 2, plan details for Phase 3, and determine a time frame to begin Phase 3.
- This document will be updated to include specifics regarding Phase 3 and then be redistributed.
- Online service options will still remain in place.
- Cleaning of facilities after each service will still remain in place.



B. Beechwold's Personal Protective Equipment Response (PPE) and Cleaning Protocol

Throughout all of the pandemic, our cleaning company has continued to clean and sterilize our building. Our staff has also purchased the needed cleaning and PPE supplies to be able to ensure, to the best of our ability, that we can fall within the Governor's guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Hand sanitizing stations
- Disposable masks for those who have none of their own
- Disposable gloves for volunteers
- Commercial cleaning supplies
- Pre-packaged communion
- No-contact offering stations outside of the Worship Center
- Update and cleaning of the coffee area for Phase 3
- Commercial cleaning company regularly cleaning commonly-touched surfaces
- Worship Experience bags for children prepared in a safe and sanitary manner
- COVID-19 signage in common areas to help remember safe practices

C. Answering some Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why "only" 100 people per worship service?

A: Great question. The Governor's mandates for businesses have changed over time. Some businesses can operate at 50% of their fire code capacity, some are limited to 10 customers, etc. Through all of this, there has been no mandate or requirement placed on religious institutions. Instead, churches have been able to determine on their own what would be best for their attendees. We believe that having 100 worshippers per service affords us the space to allow people to properly social distance inside our Worship Center and lobby area, yet still have a sense of community. It also allows our staff and volunteers to not be overwhelmed with cleaning, sanitizing, and preparing for all who can attend. Is this the "magic number"? No. Will it likely change as we move forward together? Yes.

Q: Will masks be required when we return to church?

A: Yes. Per Governor DeWine's mandate on July 23, 2020, facial coverings are required by all individuals over the age of ten who are at an indoor location that is not a residence. That includes our facilities here at Beechwold. We will have disposable masks available for those who do not have access to one.

Q: Will there be checks for our health before we can enter for worship?

A: We are leaving the responsibility of determining your health level up to you. We are asking that those who have cold/flu-like symptoms or have been exposed to someone with said symptoms to remain at home until they are healthy. All we ask is that you be courteous of other attendees and their health if you aren't feeling well.



Q: Can I give someone a hug or a handshake?

A: We would discourage you from this type of interaction for the time being. We need to be mindful that this could be a stumbling block for someone else who witnesses this type of interaction and cause them to not want to worship alongside us in the future.

Q: When will things go back to normal?

A: Our new “normal” will look, feel, and sound different from what it did at the beginning of 2020. We are positive, however, that our church will emerge from this time of isolation with some lessons learned, new ways to approach connection, and holding on to the vision of Beechwold (Pursuing God, Pursuing People, and Moving Forward Together). We hope that taking us out of our comfort zone now will allow us to better work towards completing that vision in our future.

Q: Why did Children’s Ministry and Student Ministry events get cancelled?

A: We look forward to VBS, camp, and Summer in the Son just as much as our students of all ages do. The decision to cancel VBS was made with staff, leadership, and volunteers all in agreement that we can work on planning a different event/events that would be safer for our children. Round Lake and KCU made the decision to cancel their scheduled events based on the many different types of counsel they were given. At this time, the logistics of trying to make their events happen made the necessary changes unable to happen in a realistic amount of time. Beechwold staff and our wonderful volunteers are working to plan more fun and safe family-oriented events moving forward.

Q: What about Student Ministry?

A: Will has done a great job in his short time here at Beechwold of adapting and creating possible interactions for our students. As Phase 1 evolves, he is continuously reevaluating meeting and doing other events and activities in person as time goes on. To stay in the loop, you can follow Beechwold’s Student Ministry on Instagram (@beechwold_students) or check the website for more information.

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted Beechwold? Attendance? Giving?

A: The short answer is that it has impacted us in a surprisingly positive way. In March, when we were faced with the decision of what to do regarding worship, our staff acted decisively and quickly. It was encouraging to see our online presence grow as we had more people engaging with our online Worship Experiences on Sundays, greater interaction between our people on Facebook, and people who have never set foot in our building engage with us online and desire to be a part of who we are. As far as giving, people’s generosity has been phenomenal. We have witnessed people give financially, not just to keep our church and its missionaries supported, but also to help each other out in tough financial times. We’ve always had a generous church family, but this has made plainly clear that Beechwold members are committed to sacrificially giving to take care of one another. All we ask is that this generosity continues as we move forward together.



Q: What if someone tests positive for COVID-19 and has attended a Family Worship service?

A: In the event that someone tests positive and has attended worship at Beechwold, our first goal is to care for that person and their family. They would follow the CDC guidelines for quarantine (currently ten days after they first display symptoms or have a positive test **AND** have 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** their other symptoms are improving). They will also seek medical assistance if necessary. As they do that, we will do everything in our power to help ease their burden. We will also work to gather information from them concerning possible exposure of others and a notification will be sent out to the entire church in attendance via email and snail mail concerning a positive test. Our staff will contact the known individuals who had possible exposure via a phone call. For the next two Sundays after we are informed of a positive test, our worship services will move online to our website and Facebook at 9 am as a precautionary measure for any who were potentially exposed and have not yet possibly begun to show symptoms. As we contact those possibly exposed, we would also be working with our local health authority (if necessary) to determine if further steps would need to be taken for the health of all involved.

Q: I've heard there will be a second wave that could cause another pandemic. What are Beechwold's plans for that?

A: As we did during Governor DeWine's recommendations, we would follow the guidance of both the federal and state authorities to comply in a way that keeps the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health of our attenders at the forefront. We've seen that God can move us to do great things (both big **AND** small) during a time of isolation, so we will make decisions based on faith and not fear, while working to honor the authorities that God has put in place.

Q: I have a child under the age of 2, when should we come to Family Worship?

A: As of now, both of our worship services are mask mandatory so choose the Family Worship that is most convenient for you. As we move forward into Phase 2, be sure to stay tuned for what is available for our children.

Q: How are the staff doing through all of this?

A: This has been a learning process for all of our staff and we have all handled it differently. All of us have had to rethink our role in how we do ministry. It's led to longer work hours, learning new technology, and creatively working to engage people in ways we haven't had to before. It's challenged communication and pointed out the importance of better communication. Some of us feel like we've been going non-stop since this all began and we are ready for a break. But, your encouragement and support and God's provision have been a saving grace through it all. And we all are looking forward to what God holds for us moving forward.