

Back on Track BGBC

August 2020 - Face Covering Modifications

Bible Passages

As with the first draft of Back on Track BGBC, our church leadership desires that we be motivated by scripture.

Philippians 2:3-11 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Romans 15:1-2 *We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."*

Ephesians 4:1-3 *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Background and Motivation

Battle Ground Bible Church is a living and vital local church with a deep love for God and for God's people. The members of BGBC are dependent upon one another like the parts of a human body are dependent upon the whole (1 Corinthians 12:12-26) or like branches that are dependent upon the Vine (John 15:1-13). We need one another, and we all need to

gather physically. The church cannot be truly a church, and the members cannot experience the grace of sanctification without the membership physically gathering together.

To make this happen, our church has ordained Shepherds given to us by the Head of the Church, Christ Jesus (Ephesians 4:11), and made overseers by the Holy Spirit, to care for the flock of God, which He obtained with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Through the writer to the Hebrews, God instructs us to obey and submit to them as those who are “keeping watch over your souls, as those who will give an account.” Then He adds, “Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17).

Please understand that our primary motivation is love for *all* of our brothers and sisters at BGBC. We are attempting to provide an environment that is satisfactory for those who have been remaining at home. We ask you to help us provide an environment that is conscientious, considerate and yet not overly burdensome.

The following is a plan to increase our face covering and social distancing protocols. Let us proceed in humility, deferring to one another in love (Philippians 2:1-11).

Back on Track BGBC

Single 9:00am Service:

Previously, we were already moving in a direction to enable the whole congregation to gather physically; the order from the governor adds an additional consideration. To comply with the spirit of this guidance and to potentially gather the entire body of BGBC we plan to continue with one service at 9:00 a.m. with increased distancing protocols.

Face Coverings/Shields:

Please put on a face covering (mask or clear plastic face shield) as you enter the church building.

Upon arriving at your seat, you may remove your face covering/shield. This protocol only requires wearing your face covering/shield for one minute or less as you make your way to your seat.

Replace your face covering/shield when singing or reading scripture aloud. (If preferred, it is appropriate to enjoy the music or scripture quietly without your face covering.)

Wear your face covering/shield as you move around the building.

Wear your face covering/shield as you are dismissed at the end of the service.

Please bring your own face covering or face shield. A few extra masks and face shields will be available in case you forget.

The music team and the preacher will remain distanced on the stage but may lead/teach without face coverings or shields.

If anyone is unable to wear a face covering/shield due to a medical condition, please contact one of the elders; a special seating protocol may be arranged to assist you.

Arrival, Dismissal and Seating:

We will "tape off" every other pew in the church to ensure there is an empty pew between each full pew.

Please sit closely within family units and give space to other families sharing the same pew.

As weather permits, we encourage people to meet and greet *outside* as much as possible (both before and after the service).

On poor weather days, we encourage parishioners to use the full length of the hallway and fellowship hall to meet and greet before and after the service to maintain reasonable distancing.

We will dismiss the service by rows starting from the back and avoid clustering near the doorways.

Help us maintain a clear and open pathway between the seats and the main entry/exit doors.

Building:

The toddler room and the 2 nursery rooms are open. These rooms are cleaned and sanitized each week.

The building is open, so if the sanctuary is full, feel free to listen to the sermon in the foyer, hallway or library.

Streaming:

We plan to maintain the livestream for the foreseeable future.

Back on Track Indiana

We ask that all parishioners be familiar with the guidance supplied to churches by the Indiana governor found in [Back On Track Indiana](#). Also, please read the executive order found in [Face Covering Requirement](#).

Dates

August These steps go into effect Sunday August 2 for the month of August.

September Church leadership will re-evaluate protocol at the end of August and decide how to proceed forward into September.

Document References

Back On Track Indiana

[Back On Track Indiana - Guidance to Places of Worship](#)

Face Covering Requirement

[Indiana Executive Order - Face Covering Requirement](#)