



bethel church | pca

Dear Bethel family,

We are gathering for worship again this week! This Sunday we'll have in-person worship with livestream for those still recuperating at home.

For your encouragement, the church building has been sanitized (downstairs and upstairs, including the sanctuary). The guideline the elders are following as to when to return to worship is fourteen days after the onset of symptoms and 48 hours fever free. (The CDC recommends ten days after the onset of symptoms and 48 hours fever free before reentering society; we're extending that to 14 days). We encourage those who test positive to do the same to ensure we don't spread COVID any further. Having worshipped from home the last two weeks, the good news is that anyone who may have gotten COVID through Bethel should have experienced symptoms in the intervening time. If we follow this guideline, then, those who may have gotten COVID through Bethel will avoid spreading it any further. More good news: the CDC says that, for three months, those who have had COVID cannot carry and transmit it to others, even if they have been around someone who has it. In such cases, they do not indicate the need to quarantine. This will help limit further spread too!

We can't be sure exactly how this spread so quickly through our congregation. One lesson we can take away is the importance of social distancing, especially for those who are vulnerable or who interact often with those who are vulnerable. As a congregation, we love to hug; as the body of Christ, it's strange not to express our love for one another in some way. It feels odd to keep our distance. But, especially out of consideration for the vulnerable, we need to give each other "permission" not to hug. Though it may not seem like it, this pandemic will eventually pass, and the need to social distance with it!

I cannot wait to see you all on Sunday—if not yet in person, then at least on the livestream!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anton

PS. Wednesday night Bible study and Gospel kids will, Lord willing, resume next Wednesday, January 20!