

To The bridge Presbyterian Church Family

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Worshipping and staying connected during a global pandemic has been quite a challenge; one that the bridge Presbyterian Church has met with faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. During this time, we were able to transition to online worship services which allowed the worship of God to be shared with old friends and new friends alike. Online worship services at the bridge Presbyterian Church will remain a vital option as we seek to live out our mission to connect with God's People, God's Passion, and God's Purpose for our lives.

Over the past few months, the session has sensed an increasing number of Covenant Partners are ready to return to in-person worship. A brief survey of the congregation confirmed enthusiastic support for a return to in-person worship. The worship team diligently crafted safe and responsible guidelines for in-person worship during a pandemic. An ad hoc team of the session added additional guidelines.

At the October stated session meeting, the elders of the bridge Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to offer an additional worship opportunity and adopted specific guidelines. Beginning on November 1 at 10:00, an in-person indoor worship service will be offered in our sanctuary for those feeling comfortable regathering for face-to-face Sunday worship.

The session requests that everyone attending in-person worship adhere to the attached guidelines. These guidelines reflect our best attempt at combining guidance from sources such as the CDC, The State of North Carolina Dept Interim Guidance for Places of Worship and Religious Services and our insurance provider.

One guideline you will notice is the need to make reservations prior to attending Sunday worship. Making reservations for worship will make some folks uncomfortable. We get that! But making reservations is needed so that our worship planners can prepare – in advance, for Sunday seating. Additionally, reservations are for the benefit of everyone and will allow for a quick contact trace should someone in worship contract COVID.

In addition to the guidelines that will be followed for indoors worship, it is important to know what other measures have been taken to prepare the sanctuary for regathering. All of the chairs have been sanitized and will be arranged for at least 6 feet of social distancing. The floors, windows, and blinds have all been cleaned. The air filters have been replaced with virus grade filters.

Those comfortable attending indoors worship will notice some modifications to worship including limited movement (less standing and sitting), the way in which we pass the peace, the

way offering is collected, and more guidance from ushers when entering and exiting the sanctuary. There may also be changes to the order of worship such as fewer songs or unison prayers.

The session and staff of the bridge takes everyone's well-being very seriously. All staff members and those volunteering to lead worship have made the personal choice to participate in indoors worship. If at any time the staff, the session or those leading worship feel that conditions are unsafe to continue worshipping indoors or that guidelines are being ignored by those attending, the decision will be made to pause indoor worship. In doing so, we are taking seriously the health and welfare of church family, as well as the residents of Leland and Belville.

Continuing to provide high-quality online worship as well as an in-person worship option reflects the elders best attempt at finding a responsible and faithful way forward for everyone. That said, those who wish to remain at home watching worship online should never feel compelled or shamed into attending in-person worship.

Because this is a decision of the entire session, we ask that you address questions or concerns to the session through the Clerk of Session, Susan Stanewick (SStanewick@gmail.com). Susan will share correspondences at the monthly session meetings, where they will be discussed and, if needed, responded to.

Directions for registration through Realm or by contacting Wanda Batten will be shared no later than Monday, October 26. The elders of the bridge Presbyterian Church want to thank everyone who has prayerfully supported our leadership during these unprecedented times. Please continue to pray for our leadership as we try our best to hoist the sail and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully Yours,

The Session of the bridge Presbyterian Church

Indoor Worship Guidelines Proposed by the Worship Team

For those comfortable with gathering inside for worship, here is what to know and expect:

- Please let us know you are coming by registering on Realm; emailing the bridge at thebridgepres@gmail.com or by calling the office phone at (910) 769-4951. Based on guidelines from our insurance company in regards to social distancing, we can accommodate 40 people.
- Face coverings are required by the property management company in all common areas of the building including entry ways, stairwells, elevators, and hallways.
- All doors to common entries will be propped open to reduce the need to touch them.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at all entries and at the restroom.
- Attendees will respect and honor others' personal space by acknowledging and accepting that not everyone shares the same level of comfort in terms of social distancing and physical contact. If unsure, attendees are encouraged to respectfully ask or tell others about their level of comfort.
- Everyone will enter through the church office double doors (please wait at least 6 feet apart) to be included on the attendance list. This list will be used to notify those in attendance in the event that someone who has attended indoors worship tests positive for Corona Virus.
- Everyone will wear face coverings when entering and exiting the sanctuary, and when singing or praying aloud in the sanctuary. Those leading worship on stage may not wear face coverings as it may impede their ability to lead worship.
- Chairs will be reconfigured to include at least 6 feet of physical distancing and arranged to accommodate individuals, couples, and families. There will be two seating areas:
 - Comfort Level 1 - Those that prefer to wear their face coverings throughout the entire service and prefer to sit only with others who share that preference. This area will be the first seating area as you enter the sanctuary from the office area.
 - Comfort Level 2 - Those that are comfortable removing their face covering while quietly seated or those that prefer to keep their face covering on, but are comfortable sitting in the general area of those that choose to remove their face covering. This area will be located on the far side of the sanctuary by the piano.
 - The center areas will be reserved for those participating in the worship service such as the pastor, band members, ushers, and greeters and their families.
 - Children are welcome to attend, however, there will be no children's church,

toddler room, or other children's ministries at this time.

- All doors to the sanctuary will remain open during the service to allow for ventilation.
- Everyone will remain seated at the end of the service and wait for an usher to dismiss you. Everyone will exit through the main doors via the center aisle and should refrain from gathering in the hallways to socialize. Feel free to socialize and visit outside at your own comfort level while respecting that of others.
- Offering drop boxes will be available at both the entrance and exit doors.
- There are 3 sets of stairs; one on each end of the building and one in the center of the building. Feel free to use any set of stairs for entry and exit understanding that the doors to the stairwells on the ends of the building will not be propped open as they lead directly outside.
- Anyone experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms is respectfully asked to not attend worship even if you have registered.
- Anyone testing positive for Corona Virus in the two weeks following attendance in indoors worship is strongly encouraged to report this and the date they attended worship to either the office manager (Wanda Batten) or Dr. Doug so that those in attendance can be made aware. In accordance with HIPA, the name(s) of anyone reporting a positive test will not be shared. A notification will be sent to all in attendance on that particular Sunday that the bridge has received a report of a positive test for Corona Virus. The following measures for indoors worship will be taken in the event of a notification about an infection:
 - Worship services in the sanctuary will be suspended for a minimum of two weeks
 - A deep clean and sanitation of the sanctuary will occur