

**PRINCE OF PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BANGOR, PA
CURRENT COVID PROTOCOLS**

Our goal is to create a safe, welcoming worship experience for all people. As faithful stewards of God's Word and responsible members of our community, we encourage all members and visitors to adhere to the CDC guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Each individual has a personal responsibility to act according to the current CDC guidelines and Prince of Peace protocols listed here for the health and safety of all.

- Worship is currently held in person on Sundays at 9:45 am.
- Current CDC guidance will be followed for all worship services on the church grounds. Because CDC guidance is ever changing, the most recent CDC guidelines will prevail, despite postings or other protocols at Prince of Peace. CDC guidance as of **November 5, 2021**:
 - ◆ Vaccinated members/attendees have the option to remain unmasked indoors.
 - ◆ Unvaccinated members/attendees over age 2 must wear masks while indoors.
 - ◆ Vaccinated individuals who have had a close contact with a COVID positive individual are encouraged to self-monitor for COVID symptoms and contact their health care provider for guidance on testing (in most cases 5-7 days after exposure.) Vaccinated individuals can be in public settings masked for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result is received.
 - ◆ Unvaccinated individuals who have had a close contact with a COVID positive individual are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms, self-quarantine at home for 14 days, and contact their health care provider for guidance on testing (in most cases, testing is recommended immediately and 5-7 days after exposure- *per guidance updated October 27, 2021.*)
 - ◆ Anyone with the symptoms of COVID, regardless of known or unknown exposure, is encouraged to remain home, self-monitor, and contact their health care provider for guidance on testing and treatment.
- Face masks are strongly recommended for all attendees, regardless of vaccination status, to protect the vulnerable as we are considered an area of high transmission.
- Social distancing is encouraged. Some pews are marked "unavailable." Our current typical attendance allows for all to worship in the nave. If more people attend than the nave would safely allow, overflow seating will be available in the Fellowship Hall, with worship displayed on closed circuit television.
- We have begun to sing together again. Masks are required while singing.
- Holy Communion is celebrated weekly, in an altered style using pre-packaged communion cups.
- Every effort is made to record the worship service and share it via YouTube. We feel it is important to offer our members choices that allow them to worship and stay safe. This service will be offered as long as time, technology, and talents allow. Sunday worship is generally available on Mondays before noon.

MEETINGS/OTHER EVENTS/STAFF

- Congregation committees and other groups within the congregation (including our chartered BSA Scout groups) may meet in any normal meeting room in the building; there are no scheduling restrictions at this time. Meetings must be scheduled ahead of time with the church office (610-588-2355 or poplcbangor@gmail.com). Masks are recommended and mandatory for unvaccinated individuals. At the end of the meeting, Groups that meet are responsible to wipe down all surfaces touched, with wipes provided in each room. (Groups may choose to wipe down before meetings as well.)
- Current CDC guidance will be followed by all groups, meetings, and employees on the church grounds. Because CDC guidance is ever changing, the most recent CDC guidelines will prevail, despite postings or other protocols at Prince of Peace. CDC guidance as of **November 5, 2021**:
 - ◆ Vaccinated individuals have the option to remain unmasked indoors.
 - ◆ Unvaccinated individuals over age 2 must wear masks while indoors.
 - ◆ Vaccinated individuals who have had a close contact with a COVID positive individual are encouraged to self-monitor for COVID symptoms and contact their health care provider for guidance on testing (in most cases 5-7 days after exposure.) Vaccinated individuals can be in public settings, masked for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result is received.
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 - ◆ Anyone with the symptoms of COVID, regardless of known or unknown exposure, is encouraged to remain home, self-monitor, and contact their health care provider.
- Eating and drinking is not recommended. The kitchen is off-limits to all groups.
- No outside groups are permitted to meet in the building at this point.

The Reopening Task Force (Justine Cesari, Pastor Michael Scholtes, Marlene Stana, Denny Horn and Kathy Williams) will be responsible to check the CDC guidelines for updates and changes every month. This interval may change as the COVID pandemic continues to evolve and impact our everyday life. For questions about the CDC guidelines, please contact a member of the aforementioned committee. To access the most current CDC guidelines, please visit the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>