

BUF Program and Building Re-Opening Provisional Timeline

“Spring”

Approximately April/May. During this time period, preparations will be made and we will try out tentative physical arrangements.

“Summer”

Approximately June through at least Labor Day, BUF activities will require safety precautions, and participation will be limited.

“Fall”

When it is safe to do so, precautions will be relaxed and participation expanded.

Full Reopening

No restrictions.

These “seasons” are very rough, and will not precisely overlap State of Washington “Phases.” At all times our precautionary measures will be at least as strict as required by our local Phase designation. As much as possible, even after COVID, we will continue to make BUF programs accessible online.

All of the following is subject to change based on advice and requirements from the CDC, State, County, UUA, and our insurance provider. The COVID Task Force meets weekly to assess and respond to changing conditions. Team members are Murray Bennett, Bharti Kirchner, Dr. Ken Gass, Deb Cruz, Lisa Moss, Kathy Wahto, and Rev. Paul Beckel. A Welcoming Team will be established to facilitate safe practices.

Please contact us:

covidtaskforce@buf.org

if you have questions or concerns.

“SPRING”

– Approximately April/May

1. Ten to fifteen volunteers will be solicited each week for in-person participation in Sunday services as musicians, singers, speakers, tech-support, and audience.
 2. All present must attest to being vaccinated (having completed a two-week waiting period after receiving two COVID vaccine shots).
 3. Standard protocols will apply for masking and distancing. All entering the building will sign a liability waiver and declare that they are free from symptoms and exposure.
 4. One speaker or soloist may be unmasked at a time. The congregation or groups of up to 15 may sing: triple-masked, spaced 9 feet apart.
 5. No other gatherings will take place inside the BUF building.
 6. Our only current renter is the school, with strict limits on the number of students, only using the upstairs, with a separate entrance, with no one else using the upstairs, and doing its own cleaning.
-
-

“SUMMER”

– *Approximately June through at least Labor Day*

Summer – General

1. Masking and social distancing will be required for all BUF activities, indoors and outdoors.
2. Those with health conditions that prevent them from masking will be excused from this requirement.
3. Vaccination is encouraged.
4. Activities will be limited such that we can follow our safety practices without additional staffing or alteration to the building,
5. If you have any symptoms of covid, please stay home. A list of symptoms and a self-assessment are here: <https://landing.google.com/screener/covid19?source=google>

Summer – Restrooms and other Areas of the Building

6. Building access will be limited to the entryway, narthex, sanctuary, and admin-level restrooms. Not the coat room.
7. Only one person (and their caregiver) can use the restroom at a time.
8. Only one person (and their caregiver) can use the elevator at a time
9. The elevator may be used only by those going to the restroom, and only by those who are unable to climb the stairs.
10. The floor will be marked in front of the restrooms to ensure social distancing.

Summer – Sunday Services

11. Legal capacity of the sanctuary is 220. Washington State Phase 3 allows religious organizations to operate at 50% capacity. Phase 2 allows 25%. We plan to remain well below these thresholds. During this period we may gradually increase to 30-50.
12. The number of people allowed at a Sunday service will be announced in the MWU. Reservations will need to be made in advance—first come, first served. We will not advertise to the public that we are open, but unless there are an unusual number of unexpected guests, we will not turn anyone away.
13. Everyone will enter from Ellsworth Street and exit onto I-Street (from the front or rear of the sanctuary).
14. We will keep a clear path to the ramped exit at the front/left of the sanctuary.
15. Two ushers will be available to answer questions and ensure that everyone signs a liability waiver. The waiver will provide for self-reporting regarding not being ill and, when applicable, exemption from mask-wearing.
16. Masks, trash cans, and hand sanitizer will be available at the ushers' table.
17. The Ellsworth and I-Street doors will remain open (*open*, not just unlocked), with an usher present at each door, before, during, and after services. The interior narthex and sanctuary doors will also remain open at all times.
18. All windows in the sanctuary will also remain open, and ceiling fans will remain on.
19. About half of the pews will be roped off. Seating per pew will be limited to one household or two singles.
20. We will not use printed orders of service or hymnbooks. These, and speakers/musicians connecting with us from afar (if technically feasible) will be displayed on the large screen at the front of the sanctuary.
21. Rules for congregational singing during this period are still to be determined.

Summer – Other Activities

22. Rules for outdoor gatherings, children’s activities, committees, and small groups are still to be determined.
23. Programs under consideration include:
 - On-the-Porch events similar to those we’ve already had with music, fair trade sales, clay to make your own chalice, and other handouts. Maybe a “Blessing of the Bicycles” in June.
 - Flower Communion (June) and Water Communion (September) may be set up on Friday/Saturday for people to come in one by one.
 - Outdoor services, or picnics in Fouts park (one block east of BUF).

Summer – Cleaning and Ventilation

24. All high-touch areas will be cleaned after each gathering.
25. In addition to the admin-level restrooms, a sink for handwashing is available in the I-Street vestibule off the back of the sanctuary.
26. Adaptation of our ventilation systems is under review.

Summer – Renters

27. The COVID task force will negotiate with potential renters during this period for possible rentals in the fall.

“FALL”

– Further consideration will be given to increasing participation in

1. Small groups
2. Children’s Programs
 - a. More details will need to be worked out to ensure our teachers’ and students’ safety.
 - b. Public schools currently require students to be vaccinated for measles. Over the next few months, we’ll see what standards are set for vaccines in local schools.
3. Choir/Singing
4. Renters

FULL REOPENING

1. No restrictions
2. Celebration: Dance? Bookfest?
3. A Sunday or other event that includes everyone bringing a chalice (note that clay for making your own chalice has been and will be available throughout the year).
4. We will continue indefinitely to make BUF programs as accessible as possible online.