***First Baptist Church Plan for Re-gathering***

***When are we planning to return to in person services?***

While we are thankful that churches could begin to gather in person as early as May 10, 2020, the leadership of First Baptist feels that **May 24, 2020** will be the best date to resume in - person gatherings. This date will give us enough time to secure cleaning products, make some technology updates for those still wishing to join us from home via livestream, and provide enough time for clear communication to you on our plan for re-opening.

Again, as your pastor, I want to make it abundantly clear that only those who feel safe and comfortable attending with us in person on this date should do so. This decision is unique to you and your family and as your pastor I want you to feel free to make the decision you feel best. We would encourage anyone that may be in a vulnerable category to continue to take advantage of watching our services online.

***What format are we planning to return with?***

In the beginning we plan to have our regular service time beginning at 10: 55 a.m. **In order to ensure that we have adequate spacing, please respond if you plan to attend and how many of your family will be attending with you to the church office at 502 477 8197 or email Pastor Chance** **fbctchance@gmail.com** **by Wednesday May 20, 2020.**

If more people indicate that they will join our in person gathering than we can safely accommodate, we are planning to offer an identical service in addition to the 10:55 a.m. service. It is possible that we may have to ask some to consider attending an alternate service time in order to create room. We will keep you updated if/when an additional service might be added.

The following guidelines will be utilized before, during, and after services:

* The sanctuary side will be the only part of the building utilized. Please enter through the main sanctuary double doors or the prayer garden door if you need use of the elevator.
	+ For anyone needing to use the elevator we will provide an usher at the (1) Prayer Garden door (2) The interior ramp door and (3) the exterior ramp door.
	+ Pending weather, the doors will be left propped open for entrance. When the service begins, normal security protocol for locking, etc. will be in place.
		- If a door is unable to be propped open, we are asking that only ushers touch doors, doorknobs, etc. In order to make everyone feel comfortable, we are asking that ushers be masked and gloved while performing the above tasks.
* If a restroom is needed, the unisex restrooms behind the sanctuary will be designated male and female and we request that only these restrooms are used.
* In order to ensure 6’ of social distancing, every other pew will be marked for available seating. Please feel free to sit on any marked pew.
	+ If you sit on the piano or organ sides, please sit on the end of the pew closest to the stained-glass windows.
	+ If you sit in the middle section, please sit on the right or left side of the pew divider closest to the aisle.
* We ask that all joining and participating in the service maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing before, during, and after the worship gathering.

***Will there be a nursery or children’s church?***

Per the State’s recommendation of childcare not resuming until June, we will not have nursery or children’s church at this time. We encourage any families that feel comfortable to join us in worship as a family unit.

***What about shaking hands?***

During the initial phase or re-gathering, we politely request that we do not shake hands with one another and instead offer an “air wave” or polite nod.

***What about the offering plate?***

While we will still have a designated offertory time during the service in which we pray and reflect on our worship through giving, we will not be passing the plate during service. Instead we will encourage you to continue to give electronically, by mail, drop off, or to place your offering in a plate stationed near the door as you exit the in-person service.

***Will my temperature be taken before I enter?***

No. Because temperature checks are not being required to enter Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, etc., we do not feel it necessary for our service. However, we would certainly encourage you to remain home if you are not feeling well and we ask that those who have been ill, or had a fever of at least 100.4 in the last 48 hours not attend the worship gathering.

***Will I need to wear a mask?***

We are *recommending* that masks be worn. Ultimately, we request that each person do what is most comfortable for them while keeping in mind the needs/comforts others around them.

***What about bulletins, welcome packets, guest cards, etc.?***

Bulletins, guest cards, welcome packets, etc. will be placed on a table in the foyer and available for each person who would like one.

***What about cleaning and hand sanitizer stations?***

Hand Sanitizer and mask stations will be placed throughout the building for use. In addition to the regular cleaning that takes place weekly throughout the building- any common areas used during a service will be cleaned and disinfected before the next service begins.