

Atlanta West Pentecostal Church Family:

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this unusual time of online-only church. Your faithfulness in watching online and your consistency in supporting our church financially has been remarkable. Our church leadership team has worked hard to connect with our members, create content to strengthen our church, and to advance our mission.

Today, on behalf of our leadership team, it is my honor to announce plans for **opening in-person services** starting on May 31, 2020. If, for any reason, you are uncomfortable attending in-person services at this time, please continue to watch online.

The following is a long, but necessary, list of guidelines and restrictions.

- Attendance will be by registration only for our 9 am and 11:30 am Sunday services.
- Doors will open 30 minutes before service time.
- For those who cannot attend, both services will be live-streamed.
- Services will last approximately one hour.
- Wednesday night services will continue to be online-only with a goal of opening our midweek service for our older members on June 17, 2020. We will keep you informed as this unfolds.
- Registration for the May 31 services will begin at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 26.
  - You will receive an email announcing the opening of registration with a link allowing you to register.
  - There is no cost for registration.
  - Based on social distancing guidelines, our seating capacity is 160 people per service.
  - Only those registered will be permitted to attend.
  - Please do not come expecting to attend without registering.
- Who should NOT attend?
  - Those age 65 or older
  - Medically vulnerable individuals or those with compromised immune systems
  - Anyone running a fever
  - Persons showing symptoms of any communicable illness, including COVID-19

- Those that have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Masks are to be worn in common areas, so please bring a mask with you.
  - Common areas include the foyer, hallways, and restrooms.
  - You are welcome to wear a mask in the sanctuary, but it is not a requirement.
  - Staff and volunteers will be wearing masks in common spaces for your protection, and theirs.
- Arriving
  - Entrance to the building will be through the foyer only.
  - As you approach the foyer, you will be greeted to confirm your registration and to ensure you are wearing a mask.
  - Please be willing to have your temperature taken.
  - Lingering in the foyer or other high traffic areas will not be allowed.
  - Posted informational signs will assist you in following protocols.
- Seating will be arranged to accommodate social distancing and to maximize our sanctuary space.
  - Upon entering the foyer, you will be directed into the sanctuary to a row.
  - We will leave one row open between rows that are designated for seating.
  - We will leave three seats between those who are not sitting together as a cohabiting family.
  - If you want to sit together with your family, please plan to enter the building together.
  - We will not be able to accommodate special seating, your preferred seating, or a desired section of seats.
  - Once in your seat, do not leave until we are dismissed.
  - If you need to go to the restroom or take your child out of the sanctuary, please do not return to your seat without guidance from an usher.
- Children's ministries are not permitted to meet at this time.
  - Children need to remain with their parents at all times. (We love to see them play and interact at church, but that is not prudent at this time.)
- Nurseries are closed for general use.
  - We will allow time-limited access to the nursery and family room for the necessities of mothers with babies.
  - Masks must be worn.
  - Two mothers at a time will be permitted in the nursing mothers' room.

- No one will be permitted to remain in the nurseries longer than necessary.
- Personal interactions will be limited.
  - Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, for now, church will be a touchless experience.
  - Social distancing will be required as well as no physical contact. This means:
    - Do not hug.
    - Do not shake hands.
    - Do not hold hands with anyone other than family with whom you live.
    - Do not lay hands on others.
- Restrooms in the foyer and near the Fellowship Hall will be open for no more than two people at a time. They will be cleaned periodically throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in public spaces.
- Water fountains will be out of order and unavailable.
- Giving is an act of worship and we have always made it part of our worship service.
  - Giving is always available online.
  - There will be a receptacle in the foyer for cash or checks.
  - Giving envelopes will be available.
- We will not be able to come to the altar.
  - We will worship and pray from our assigned seats.
  - On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the house where they were sitting. (See Acts 2:2.)
- Dismissal will be by rows starting from the back of the sanctuary.
  - Direction will be given from the platform.
  - Guidance will be provided by ushers in the aisles.
  - To maintain social distancing, please move through the foyer and exit the building.

Pastoral Note: If you feel that you cannot refrain from coming in close proximity to other people or not making physical contact, please watch online. If you are not comfortable receiving correction or direction from our designated leaders, please watch online. If you are uncomfortable with these guidelines, please watch online.

Holding in-person church services with these restrictions is uncomfortable and unusual. We are trying to do the best of things in these trying times. Please understand that our motivation for these guidelines is love, and the safety of our church family.

Sincerely,

Darrell Johns  
Pastor