



Protocol for In-Person Worship Services

Spring 2021

(Updated 4/2/21)

These protocols are motivated by love for neighbor and intended to protect everyone's health as we focus our hearts and minds in worship. Thank you for helping us love and protect our neighbors by your cooperation.

Please do not attend if you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath).

Attend at your own risk. We have many new cleaning and social distancing protocols in place to protect everyone, but these do not guarantee you will not be exposed to COVID-19. If you are in the high-risk categories defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we strongly request that you do not attend in-person services. The following is taken directly from the CDC website (www.cdc.gov):

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Broadcast & Livestream Availability

We will continue to broadcast our services on WBKO, and we will continue to stream our services at www.firstbaptistbg.org and by way of the BoxCast app on your Roku, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire devices. Please feel free to continue worshipping with us virtually if that is best and safest for your household.

Cleaning Protocols

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have implemented additional cleaning protocols campus-wide to address the added concerns about germ and virus transmission. Cleaning and sanitizing will be ongoing before, during, and after worship services.

Arrival Times, Parking, and Entering the Facility

- **Facility Opening** – The facility will open 30 minutes prior to the Worship Service. Please do not arrive earlier than 30 minutes before the Worship Service is scheduled to begin.
- **Parking & Drop-Off** – You may park wherever you like, and if needed, you can be dropped off near the Main Sanctuary Entrance. We will not operate our shuttle service.
- **Entering the Facility** – Please enter the Main Sanctuary Entrance. All other entrances will be closed.
- **Maintain Social Distance** – Please maintain six feet of social distance as you approach and enter the facility.

What to Expect As You Enter

- **Avoid Interpersonal Contact** – Please maintain six feet of social distancing between household units, and please do not extend hugs, handshakes, or physical greetings with others.
- **Face Masks** – Mask use is requested. Please bring and wear your own face mask. If you do not have a mask, free disposable masks will be available at one of our welcome desks. Please do not dispose of masks on the church campus. *Health officials recommend that children under age two DO NOT wear masks.*
- **Temperature Check** – As you enter the facility, a greeter will ask to check your temperature with one of our infrared, no-touch thermometers. This involves a quick, non-contact scan of your forehead. If you have a fever over 100.4° you will be asked to come back at another time. We would like everyone in the facility to be fever-free.
- **Avoid Gathering in Common Areas** – The Parlor will be temporarily closed, and the Narthex will be used only for entry and exit.
- **Hand Sanitizer** - Hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations throughout the Narthex.
- **No Bulletin or Handouts** - No handouts will be made available at this time. Electronic bulletins will be e-mailed to anyone who subscribes to our Flocknote. Text FIRSTBG to 84576 to subscribe.
- **No Water Fountains or Coffee** - We are temporarily turning off our water fountains and suspending coffee availability.
- **Restrooms with New Sink Faucets** – State guidelines require that only one person enter the restroom at a time. All of our aging faucets in the Narthex and Social Center restrooms have been replaced for a better hand washing experience.
- **Limited Facility Access** – Access will be limited to the Sanctuary, the Narthex, and the Narthex restrooms. If overflow seating is needed, the Social Center and Social Center restrooms will be opened. All other parts of the campus will be closed.

What to Expect in the Sanctuary

Seating

- Seating will be limited. Some pews will be kept empty intentionally.
- Church pews will be marked with red dots to indicate where you can sit. Some pews will have the middle roped off and provide social distanced seating for individuals, couples, or smaller families sitting on either end of the pew.
- At this time, unless you are fully vaccinated, please sit only with members of your immediate household unit. Some of our pews will be divided into sections allowing one to four people to sit together. Some pews will be reserved for household units with 5 or more persons.

Overflow Seating

- Should our seating in the Sanctuary reach capacity, we will have additional seating available in our Social Center with televisions displaying the service.

The Worship Service

- To protect their health, our Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra will resume at a later phase of reopening.
- All pew Bibles, hymnals, connection cards, offering envelopes, and ink pens have been temporarily removed from the pew racks.
- The Offering will not be collected during the service. A secured Offering Drop Station is located in the Narthex. Offerings can also be given safely and electronically online at www.firstbaptistbg.org/give.
- Anyone desiring to speak with a minister at the end of the service will be escorted to our Hall of Missions where a conversation can be had with appropriate social distance.

Leaving the service

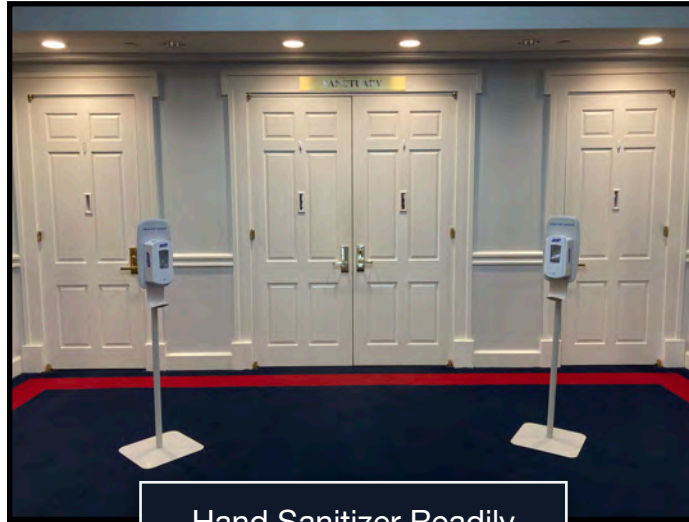
- Ushers will dismiss each row starting at the rear of the Sanctuary. Please wait until your row is dismissed to exit.
- Please make your way immediately out of the facility without stopping to gather in the Narthex. Please maintain six feet of social distancing as you exit the facility.

What to Expect for Children & Babies

No Childcare or Children's Church – Children of all ages are invited to remain with their household unit in the Worship Service. For safety, we will not distribute children's activity bags.



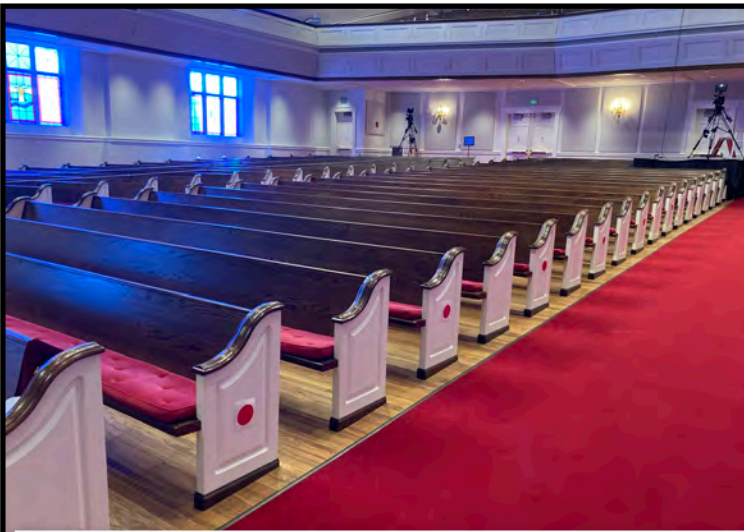
Touch Free Offering Drop



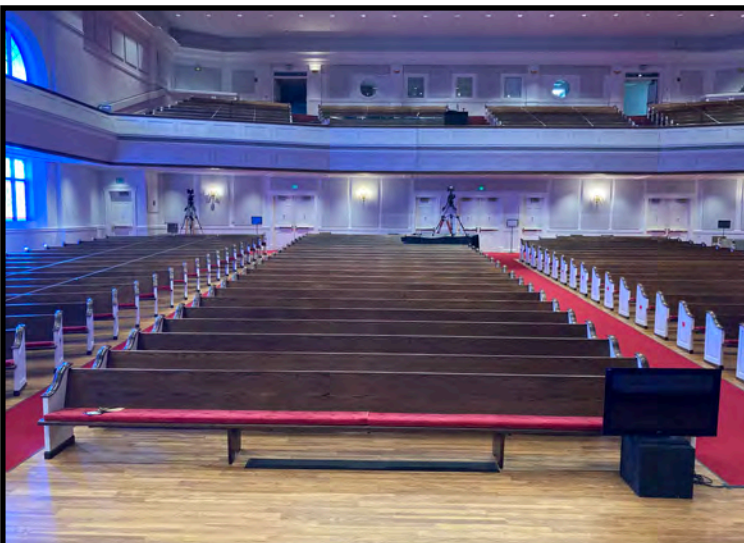
Hand Sanitizer Readily Available in Narthex



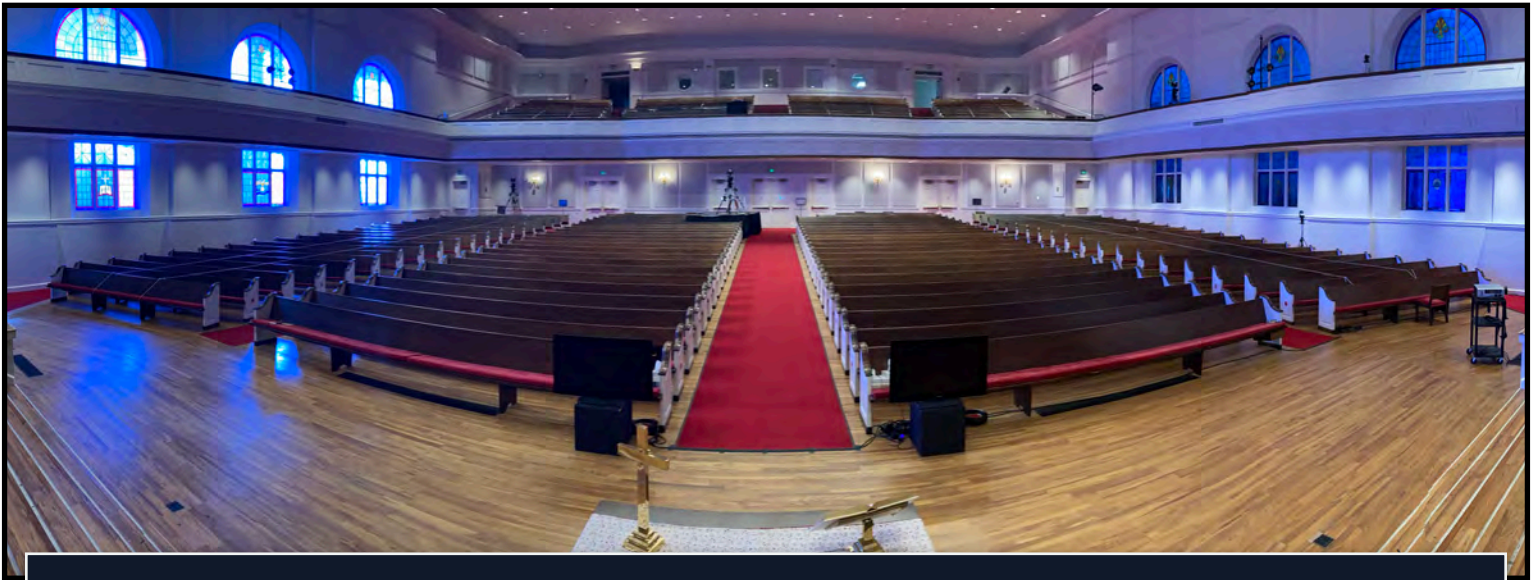
Face Masks Available



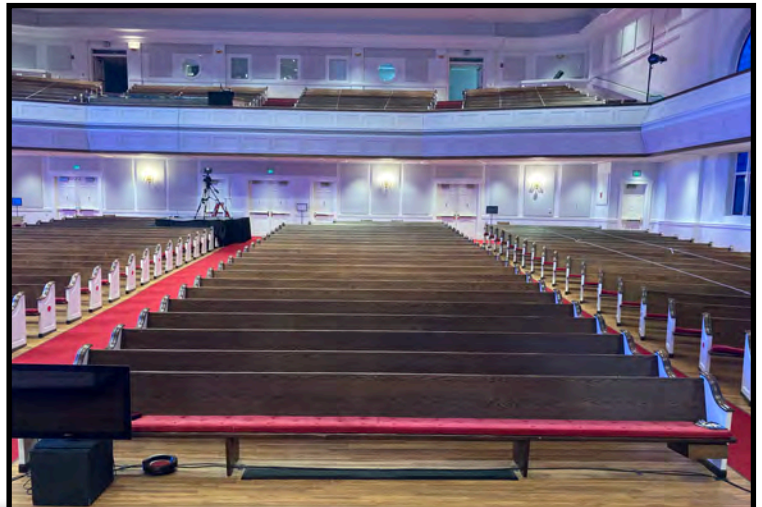
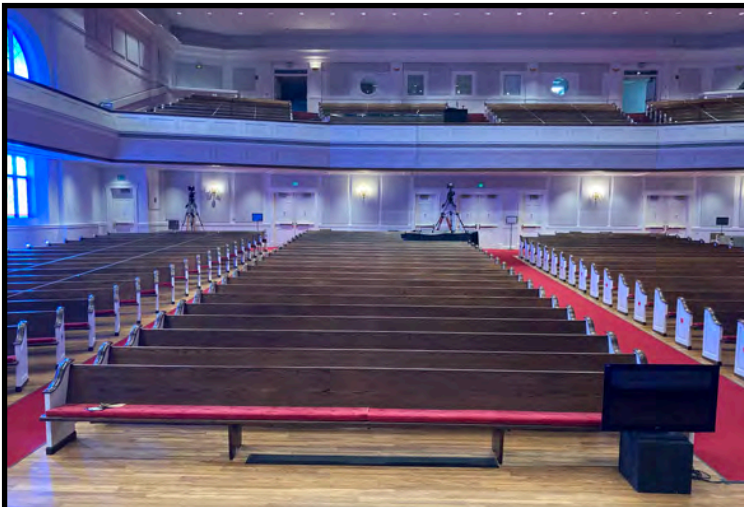
One empty row between each occupied row to provide six feet of social distance between households. Sanctuary is fogged with disinfectant prior to use to decrease likelihood of virus transfers.



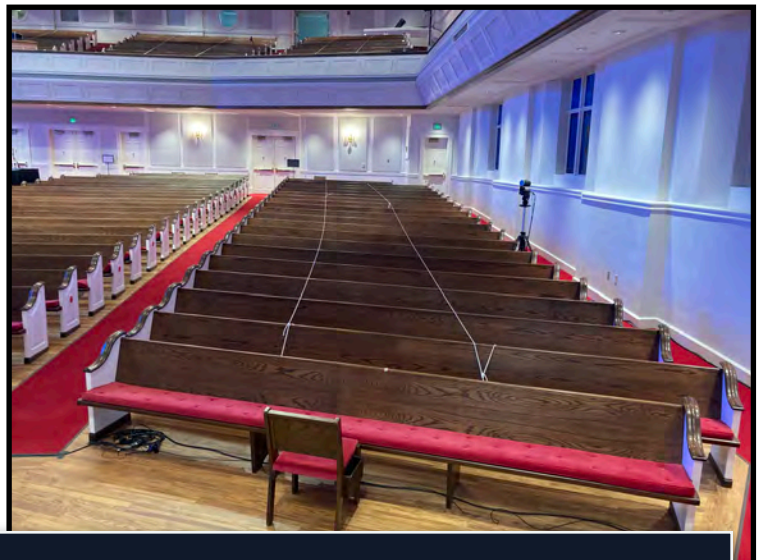
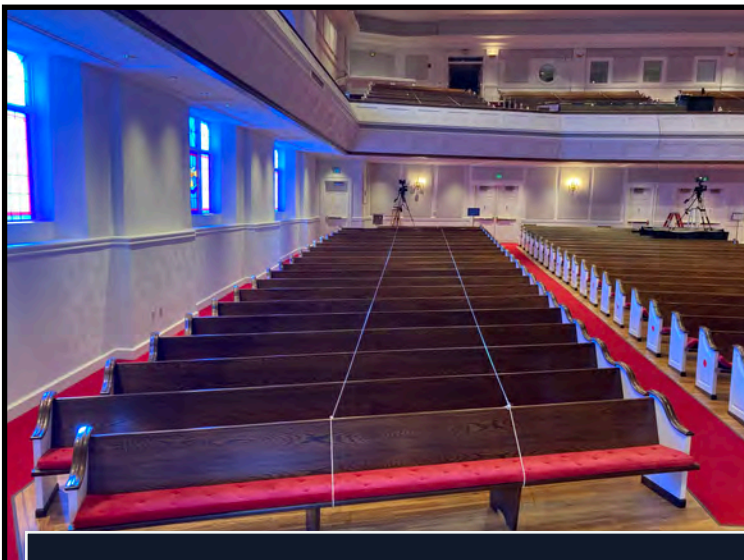
Middle six feet marked off for no use on some pews for healthy social distancing.



Pews marked for households. Provide six feet of social distancing between pews.



Two middle sections of pews have space for larger households.



Two outer sections of pews provide six feet of social distancing all around designated seating.