

## **First Baptist Church – Gathering Again**

We are excited to worship together again! With that said it is important for you to know how we approached these decisions. As leaders our desires are always to glorify God while loving our church well. Our perspective was framed by faith, biblical wisdom, and considering the unique character of our church population. A phrase that captures our mentality is “faithfully cautious.” This approach is necessary considering nearly 40% of our church population is considered “vulnerable.” Please read all the following, front and back.

### **Phase 1 – Implementation June 7**

- In-person worship service at 10:30am. No kids ministry or nursery.
- Sunday evening worship, prayer gathering, regular Sunday School meetings, all other in-person ministry activities remain cancelled.
- Anyone sick, coughing, fever (please take yours), etc. Anyone who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for covid-19 or has travelled internationally or to a domestic hotspot is asked to worship at home.
- Livestream will continue. Anyone who does not feel comfortable attending is encouraged to stay at home and worship online.
- Sunday School – Large meeting spaces will be made available for classes to meet throughout the week. Schedules will be developed with each teacher.
- Office Hours – Monday – Wednesday. 9am-2pm.
- Wednesday night videos will continue to be posted.

### **Attending Worship:**

- Keep Socially Distant – Families are encouraged to sit together. Others please stay 6ft apart as much as possible. Overflow seating will be available in the chapel.
- All entrances to the Sanctuary will be open. Greeting teams will open doors and will be wearing masks and gloves.
- The greeting time will be “limited.” Handshakes, hugs, fist bumps are discouraged.
- Those attending are encouraged to wear masks (FBC will not provide masks).
- Wash hands regularly. Hand sanitizer will be strategically placed around the church.
- There will be no – Lord’s Supper, Public Invitation, or water fountain usage.
- Offering plates will not be passed – Offerings can be dropped in plates at the back of the church upon exit.

## **Phase 2 – Implementation TBD**

- In-person ministry will happen with greater frequency and approached with flexibility.
- Ministry planning will involve creativity and continued safety considerations.
- Phase 2 may include the following changes, depending on the circumstances:
  - Sunday school classes resume in their own classes.
  - Children and youth ministries will resume.
  - Nursery will reopen.
  - Wednesday night Bible study and prayer meeting will restart.
- Off-campus ministry including day and overnight trips will remain canceled.

## **Phase 3 – Implementation TBD**

- Return to all regularly scheduled in-person ministry activities.
- Including day and overnight trips.

## **Important Notes:**

- **The particulars of these phases are subject to change. The circumstances surrounding covid-19 are quickly and continually evolving. As we make changes to these plans we will communicate them with in a clear and timely fashion.**
- **Please adhere to the worship attendance guidelines graciously. Those making these decisions are pastors not policemen, deacons not disciplinarians. Our expectation is that everyone will remain cautious and considerate of fellow church attenders.**
- **If you have questions about our plan please ask! We want you to understand the “what” and “why” of our path forward. Don’t remain uninformed and don’t be afraid to ask questions.**
- **If you make the decision to stay home, we affirm that decision. Stay connected with us, if you have a need please let us know!**
- **The Church is people, not a place.**

