

### **C3 Re-Entry PLAN:**

We gathered last inside the church on March 15<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we did not know what the future would hold. It has now been ten weeks. We have learned a lot during this timeframe.

- The Church is NOT the building. It can and will survive outside the four walls.
- God's people are strong and faithful.
- How much we need and love the assembling together.
- We have learned how to improvise (technology / parking lot services...)

Now as we stand ready to return, we must realize that this will come in phases. While we are **Coming Back**, we are not **Going Back**. We do not want to go back to the way things always have been from a spiritual standpoint.

Recently, President Trump granted permission for churches to again host services within their facilities. Our General Overseer, Dr. Tim Hill has also encouraged churches to resume. Having met with our leadership team, we are in agreement to open our facility for services. I am excited to announce to you that this coming **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**, on **Pentecost Sunday C3 will open its doors** as we reenter the sanctuary for services. While we are excited to reenter the church facility, we also understand that this decision might not be in the best interest of everyone. If you feel like returning to church this coming Sunday is NOT right for you, please stay at home and worship with us through our online ministry. Do not feel pressure to return. We understand that everyone's circumstance is different. To stay and worship from home is not a wrong decision; nor is it a decision that speaks to a lack of faith. In fact, if you feel uncomfortable with the idea of re-entering church, please stay and worship at home. Our services you will find on Facebook Live starting at **10:15 AM**.

As you might imagine a decision like this comes with much responsibility. I have given this decision much thought and prayer and feel this is the direction we should go. I have not felt pressured from within or from outside agendas in making this decision. I have further sought out advice from those over me in the Lord and from other pastors who have already walked their local congregations through this reopening process. I feel confident in this decision and direction and believe we can return to worship services in a safe manner.

Some may be concerned that holding church services inside is disobeying the laws of the land; citing Romans 13:1-7. Please know that I am not seeking to act in a rebellious manner. This is not a political stunt or stance. The highest authority in the United States of America is the Constitution. Furthermore, each local state also has a Constitution. Both the American Constitution and the state of Maryland Constitution forbid the following: Any restrictions placed upon the **(1) Right to exercise religious freedom (2) unequal application of the law**. It seems to me that if Liquor Stores, Beaches, Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, Sam's, Costco, and other stores can remain open with large crowds adhering to social distancing the church should also be able to open. ***When you can get an abortion, but can't go to CHURCH; something is badly wrong!*** Therefore, I do not see us in violation of government; I feel government has usurped an authority that has violated my rights for religious expression through an unequal application of

the law. We could have kept our church open as others did around the country; however, this would not have been wise for the safety of our constituents. We have now flattened the curve and can resume church services with caution.

The following is our detailed PLAN for re-entry on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This plan seeks to place safety as our top priority and concern. I have broken down this plan into the four “S’s” – **Safety, Services, Seating, and Spiritual Unity.**

❖ **A video will be posted on Facebook by Saturday to show you what to expect when you arrive at C3.**

### **SAFETY:**

Maintaining a SAFE atmosphere is our top priority. To do this, we will:

- Sanitized and clean the building before every service.
- Encourage you to wash your hands with sanitizer as you enter the facility.
- Hold doors open for you so you will not have to touch door knobs.
- We will not “shake hands” or display other physical contact.
- We will not be passing the offering plate.
- Cup of Grace Café will be closed.

We have purchased sanitizer stations that will arrive soon, until then hand sanitizer will be administered to you as you enter the facility. We have also created a “Cleaning Ministry.” This team will be in charge of sanitizing the building to ensure a clean and safe environment.

### **SERVICES:**

With **safety** in mind, we will be having *two services*. The first service will begin at 8:30 AM; the second service will begin at **10:15 AM**. Each service will be one hour.

**There will be NO adult Sunday School class at this time.**

- The **8:30 AM** service will be a *Masked service*. You will be required to wear a mask. There will be no children’s ministry during this service. If you feel more comfortable in a setting where everyone is wearing a MASK, this is the service you should attend. I would also encourage our *seniors* and or those who are more vulnerable to this virus but still want to attend, to come to this service.
- The second service will begin at **10:15 AM**. In this service *masks are optional*, and *children’s ministry* will be offered.

**Children's Ministry** will follow the same safety protocol of social / physical distancing as adult church. Parents can check their children in for children's ministry right outside the nursery. The nursery will be closed at this time. Parents, if you need to take a child out of the service you may use the foyer for them to occupy themselves quietly while also watching the service.

*All services will continue to be on Facebook LIVE and on our website.*

At this time, we will NOT have **Wednesday** night services. We will take a phased approach as we reopen Wednesday's. Meaning we will open Sunday morning services first, then look at Wednesday nights as well as other ministries.

Information about Sunday evening ***Straight UP Youth*** ministry will be coming soon. As of now, continue to join Pastor Dwayne on Zoom. Additional information concerning this ministry is forthcoming.

**❖ Let me also say that I will be monitoring our steps and will make adjustments to this plan as needed.**

We will not be checking temperatures at the door, but we do demand that you do not attend services if you are sick or not feeling well. In fact, in an effort to consider others, if you have any symptoms related to COVID 19 or other sicknesses, please stay at home and worship through our online ministry.

### **SEATING:**

When you enter the facility an usher will walk with you to your seat. You may choose where you sit, the usher will be there to ensure social distancing is taking place. During the **8:30 service** only designated sections of the auditorium will be open. Seating will be done every other row. Families in the same household can sit together, everyone else needs to have **6 feet** in between.

At the end of the service, you will be dismissed by an usher. You are to exit the building immediately. Please do not stop in the foyer to talk or wait for someone; this can be done outside of the building. We are asking for your help in this issue to ensure of "Cleaning Team" the time to clean the facility for the next service. What you chose to do in the parking lot is your decision. We do encourage you to limit gatherings and use wisdom. While we all love to fellowship, we must continue to exercise preventive methods and wisdom to ensure the safety of others.

**❖ Despite all of our preventive methods and priority on safety, you can still come into contact or be exposed to this virus at church. By attending you are taking full responsibility for your health and any consequences that may arise by attending.**

### **SPIRITUAL UNITY:**

One of the aged old tactics employed by Satan is “division.” The Apostle Paul called for us to beware, to be on guard against Satan’s devices.

-Ephesians 6:11, **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”**

The enemy will seek to use every available avenue to creep in and cause division. Yes, even in the reopening of church. Let me say this again, **returning to church at this time is not best for everyone, if you feel uncomfortable, please stay home and watch the service on Facebook Live!** A congregant should NOT be judged based upon if they return to church immediately or gradually. Please consider others; in doing so realize that everyone’s circumstances differ. With the Lord’s help we have maintained a spirit of UNITY thus far through this crisis; we must not allow such unity to be disturbed now.

As always, the pastoral staff stands ready to serve you. Each and every one of you have been and are in our continual thoughts and prayers. If you have further questions or need a personal contact, simply respond to this email. Otherwise, let me be the first to tell you **WELCOME HOME!**

Blessings,

Pastor Fuson