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J. Milton Knox, Pastor

June 15, 2020

## REOPENING PLAN FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Church Family,

Our church staff and the deacons have been working through the process we will take on reopening our church campus. We have waited to share our plans with you because we wanted to make sure that any restart plan could be done in an orderly and safe fashion. As good citizens of our community, we want to conform as closely as possible to the social distancing and restart protocols that our civic leaders are recommending. As representatives of our Lord, we want to be good examples of "not looking to our own interests but to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:4)

**WHEN:** We will be opening for our first in-person worship service on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 a.m. The service will be held in the gym area, which allows us to have more seating available and more flexibility in arranging seats due to the social distancing guidelines we will be following. We will not be having nursery or preschool/children's church yet, so we ask that each household sit together.

**PARKING:** We ask that you park in the big parking lot and enter through the Faith Building doors (facing Church St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.). The other entrances to the church will be locked.

**SEATING:** When you enter, make your way to the gym floor as soon as possible and take your seat. Please work with our greeters to ensure that we can seat people as easily as possible due to the social distancing restrictions.

- As a part of social distancing, we are asking that you refrain from "touching" as we return with no hugs, handshakes, fist bumps, etc. We want to respect everyone's personal space.
- Masks will not be mandatory but are encouraged. Please bring your own mask if possible but we will have some available for those who don't have one.
- We will have hand sanitizer available, but we encourage you to bring your own as well.
- We will dismiss you from each service by rows or sections and ask that you immediately go on to the parking lot and not linger inside. You will be free to visit with people while outside as you like.
- Doors will open approximately 20 minutes before the service at 9:55 a.m. After the first service, we will clean and disinfect our chairs and bathrooms. Please be patient with us and one another as we seek to ensure everyone's safety.

After this first gathering, we should know more about how to plan for the subsequent services. We will continue to record the services and make them available for online viewing on Facebook and YouTube for those who do not feel comfortable in returning yet.

Thank you for praying with us through this process. If you have any questions, please contact us by calling the church office. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we seek to honor the Lord and respect our neighbors in everything we do. We look forward to seeing you on campus when you feel the time is right for you and your family. In the meantime, stay safe and stay connected.

Your brother in Christ,

J. Milton Knox