

FBC Response to Mask Mandate

Hello First Baptist Family,

I am reaching out to update you on our in person worship plan that keeps us in compliance with the newest executive order. Over the past 4 months, we have sought to be in alignment with government and health guidelines and will continue to do so unless an order were to violate a scriptural principle. Yesterday, Governor Walz issued a state wide mask mandate for all indoor public spaces beginning at 12am on Saturday July 25th. This mandate includes places of worship like First Baptist Church, and so, here is what you need to know.

Beginning Saturday July 25th at 12am, masks are required everywhere in our building. Seven days a week, anyone over the age of 5 years old who is not otherwise exempt from wearing a mask within executive order 20-81 (found here <https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp>) is required to wear a mask while in our building.

For the time being, the only entrance to the building which will be open on Sundays will be the main entrance, as alternative "Masks Encouraged" entrances are no longer necessary.

We recognize that this is another change, and we appreciate your grace and flexibility as we adjust to this ever evolving situation!

We will continue to offer multiple ways to worship with us to meet the needs of our congregation members. For in person worship services, we will utilize the Sanctuary and the MPR as well as one or both of our Youth Rooms below the MPR, masks required in all. Our Traditional worship service will take place live in the Sanctuary at 8:45am with overflow seating available in the MPR. Our Contemporary worship service will take place live in the MPR with overflow seating available in the Sanctuary as well as one or both of the Youth rooms below the MPR.

Additionally we will continue to offer both of our services streamed live online via Facebook, Youtube and our website, as well as broadcast to our property on FM 93.1. These options will remain available indefinitely for anyone who would prefer to worship from home, their vehicle, or our church lawn. Masks are not required outdoors but social distancing should still be maintained.

However you choose to join us on Sunday, we look forward to worshipping with you, and to seeing what God will do among us as the gathered body of Christ. In person or online, we are His people, committed to *Helping people Know, Love and Become Like Jesus!*

I love you all,
Pastor Jared