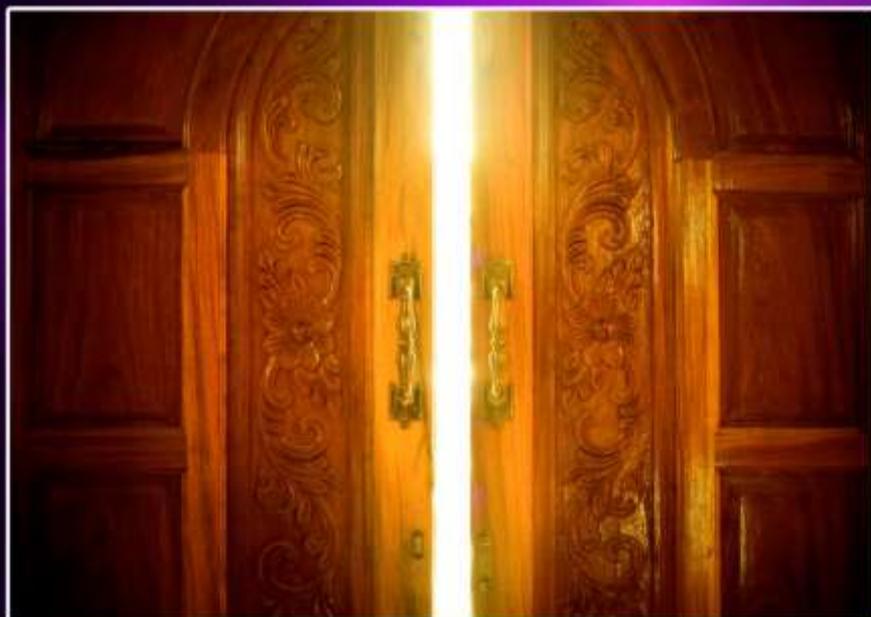


RESPONSIBLE REOPENING GUIDE FOR SMBC



Open to me the gates of righteousness;
I shall enter through them,
I shall give thanks to the Lord.
Psalm 118:19

Second



FAITH OVER FEAR! This has been our motto during this pandemic. God has been faithful to us as we have worshipped in a new way. As we prepare for a reopening of our church building for worship services, please keep in mind our worship service will look a little different from what we



may have called “normal”. As a matter of fact, I just believe that we will not see our previous “normal” again. This pandemic is shifting us into something NEW! A new way of worship, A new way of learning, A new way of living.

Although there will be changes, I am so glad that Jesus is the same. As we regather, we will continue to maintain our virtual presence and we ask everyone to be mindful of such. We now have a worshipping community beyond Kokomo and Indiana.

As you review the information in this guide, we hope you will assist us in abiding by the policies and plans. This guide is designed to help you understand the safety measures in place, to protect the health of all who enter the worship environment at Second Missionary Baptist Church of Kokomo, IN. You will note there will be no need to register for worship, but overflow is setup to assist with crowd control.

We are excited that this time has come but ask that you follow the requested protocols.

Rev. Dr. William J. Smith, Jr. - Pastor

General Overview

Second Missionary Baptist Church wants to keep you spiritually fed but also wants to ensure that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe.

We are taking key safety measures to ensure your safety. Here's what we are doing:

- Installation of air quality systems to filter air
- Require face coverings inside church facilities
 - Masks must always cover your nose and mouth.
- Conducting COVID prescreening (including temperature checks, wellness questions) prior to anyone entering the building for worship services
- Install sanitizer stations
- Require social distancing of six feet between you/your party and others
- Use overflow areas to reduce number of attendees in sanctuary (come early!)
- Pews are marked for seating and there must be 1 empty pew between each occupied pew
- Initially, Transportation/Bus Ministry will not be provided for Sunday worship
- Recommend use of online giving (i.e. Givelify) to minimize contact (for those not utilizing on-line giving, SMBC will be collecting tithes and offering prior to entering the sanctuary) and Saturdays (10AM-12Noon)
- Enhanced training of staff and volunteers on cleanliness and safety practices
- Posted Signage reminding persons of safety and cleanliness guidelines
- Doors will be opened and closed for you
- Enhanced sanitizing before and after worship service
- Cleaning restrooms throughout worship experiences (expect restroom closures)
- Removed frequently touched objects, such as bibles, hymnals, offering envelopes, and fans

*What to do **before** you come to worship service at SMBC...*

- Arrive 30 minutes prior to worship service to allow time for parking and the screening process
- If you are assigned to serve at worship service (i.e. sing, usher, safety & security, etc.), please arrive at least 45 minutes prior to service
- Masks are required to be worn in building. If you forgot your mask, one can be provided to you when you arrive at SMBC.
- Have hand sanitizer with you; SMBC will also have sanitizing stations in the building.
- Watch out for signs that provide directions on what to do
- Realize you may also be required to sit in an overflow section depending on the time of your arrival

What to do while you are in worship at SMBC...

- After being screened and are allowed entry, follow the directions of the usher/host to enter sanctuary to your pew
- Temperature checks will be done before entering the church sanctuary (anyone with a temperature of 99 or higher will not be allowed to enter)
- Wellness check questions will be asked of each person entering the sanctuary
- Practice social distancing of 6 feet
- Refrain from hugging, handshakes
- Once you enter the sanctuary, follow the directions of the usher for seating and posted signs; you may not change your seat once you are seated
 - Families who want to sit together must arrive together. Seat changes will not be allowed.
- Keep your mask on during worship service, if you need another one during worship, an usher will be happy to assist

*What to do **after** worship service is over at SMBC...*

- Once worship service has concluded, follow the direction of the Pastor and ushers to exit the sanctuary and building
- Avoid congregating inside the building, exit out of building after leaving sanctuary
- Once you have exited, please go directly to your vehicle
- Once leaving building, sanitize your hands
- Invest and Invite someone to attend the worship service. Also, share a sermon point on social media



Do not attend worship if...

- You are not feeling well (i.e. fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat)
- You have a temperature above 100
- You do not feel comfortable due to having and underlying medical condition (services will be streamed each Sunday)

We ask that you take care of yourself, stay home, and please worship with us virtually. We want you to be well!

Questions

1. When are we returning?

Our official reentry into the sanctuary for Sunday worship is Sunday, September 5 at 11AM. There will be no Sunday School on this day.

2. Will I have to register for service?

No, one of the reasons we have delayed our reentry is to ensure the process of entering is not complicated by a registration process.

3. Do I need to wear gloves to attend in person services?

No, you are not required to wear gloves to attend in person services.

4. What about communion?

We will still have communion on the First Sunday of each month. Members can pick up your communion on Saturdays (10AM-12PM) or as you enter, Deacons will hand out communion cups in a sealed baggie. At the completion of the service, you will be asked to drop your used communion in the provided containers.

5. Will the service still be live streamed?

Yes, it will be able to be viewed online and by phone line.

6. What about the nursery?

Initially we will not offer the nursery but please feel free to have your children join us in the main sanctuary. If you feel you need space to provide attention to your child, space can be made available in the choir room.

7. When someone joins as a new member during the pandemic, how does SMBC handle that?

We love new members! If someone wants to join the SMBC family, they can do so by coming to the front and a deacon will escort them to a sanitized room and discuss the decision. Persons can also go to the SMBC website clicking on Salvation and complete a form. They will be contacted about what's next.

8. Will the choirs be singing when we have in person services?

Choirs will not be singing during in person services. We will have ensembles of no more than 8 persons. Persons will be allowed to sing without masks but during other times masks will be required.

9. Is Pastor preaching with a mask on?

Everyone in attendance is required to always wear masks. Pastor will wear a mask during times when he is not speaking or preaching. Safety precautions will be adhered to for certain circumstances.

10. How will we exit the building?

The Pastor will announce and provide direction to the ushers to escort rows to be dismissed.

Everyone will be required to leave the building.

11. Is it okay for me to talk to church family/friends in the parking lot?

To ensure your safety, we are asking that after in person services, individuals should go directly to their vehicles, keeping conversations to a minimum.

12. How many can attend?

Due to social distancing, our service sizes are limited at this time. If necessary, overflow seating will be available with a live view of the service.

13. What about Sunday School?

No in person classes will be offered in the first month of our arrival. Sunday School will be available on the Second Sunday in September via phone service.

14. What is the social distancing protocol?

We ask that only families sit together. If sharing the same pew with another family, please leave at least six feet between your families.

Follow every other pew method in the sanctuary and do not remove any signage or sit where requested not to.

15. What about ministry meetings?

Currently, our goal is to manage Sunday morning worship well before opening our building to other group events and classes.

16. What about greeting?

We know that everyone is at a different comfort level when making their way through large groups. Fist bumps are okay but be respectful of one another's comfort level.

17. How long will these protocols be in place?

We don't know! Rest assure that your safety is our main concern, and we will continue to seek the advice of our Coronavirus taskforce and other professionals.

18. Will I receive a bulletin?

Bulletins will not be distributed weekly, but our church newsletter will continue to be sent out.

19. How many services will be held?

Only one service at 11AM.

20. What about unvaccinated persons, can they attend?

Currently, we are only encouraging vaccinated persons to attend our worship service.

21. What about transportation?

Our buses and vans will not be available during this time but hope to offer them soon. If you are having transportation concerns, please be sure to contact your shepherding deacon.

22. What about funeral love meals?

Love Meals will not be offered until further notice. Also, our Deaconess Ministry will not be available for the serving and transporting of meals during this time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

23. What about the church office?

The church office will remain open in a modified format. All visitors are asked to contact the church office prior to arriving. Masks are required. Social distancing will be in place.

Second



The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of love, power, and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7