



Thursday, May 14, 2020

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for your flexibility over these last several weeks. In times like these, the core of who we are as a church finds a way to reveal itself. No matter what circumstances have come our way, we have demonstrated a commitment to love God, love each other and love the world. Our resolve is seen each week as we gather around TV's or computer screens to worship the Lord together. It is seen as Zoom Sunday School classes meet to study God's word, pray and spend time with one another – all without being physically present in the same room. It is seen as we continually strive to responsibly demonstrate compassion through opportunities like a blood drive on Good Friday. This church may not have met physically together in several weeks, but it has remained faithful as God's people throughout this time.

Speaking of meeting our mission, I need to share one more word of celebration before moving to the announcements at hand. Through your sacrificial generosity in the first quarter of the year, we were able to give an additional \$40,000 to reduce the debt of our facilities. We were also able to continue our partnership with [Neighborhood Christian Center](#), the [North American Mission Board](#) (NAMB) and the [Alabama Baptist Children's Home](#).

Our church has done an incredible job of seeing opportunities for the Lord to do great things when we have encountered challenges in our circumstances. It is this faith-based optimism that will continue to serve us well as we begin to move toward opening our building for Sunday morning worship services. The plan outlined below has taken into account the counsel of governing authorities (federal, state and local), the wisdom provided by our denomination (NAMB, the [Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions](#), and the [Morgan Baptist Association](#)), as well as insights from our ministry staff and several church leaders. I want to stress from the outset that this situation is fluid, and new information or new regulations could change our plans quickly. Any updates can be found by following this link [Central Baptist Church Website](#) and clicking the button "Corona Virus Update." With these things in mind, the bottom line is that our first Sunday back to worshiping in the same room will be Sunday, May 31. Please read below to see the guidelines that will be operative that day.

Dr. Rob Hatfield

Senior Pastor

A Covid-19 Corporate Return-to-Worship Gathering Plan

- We will continue to provide our online streaming platform for those who may not be able to attend in person (this includes any person who has a fever or who is experiencing any symptoms of sickness), or who are uncomfortable with attending in person. We do recommend, as does the CDC, that you worship from home if you are over 65 or have a pre-existing health condition that makes you more vulnerable to this virus. It is ok to stay home and worship from home.

Registration & Gathering Plan:

- **Participant Limitation:** Each service will be limited to 125 participants who must pre-register on our website for the service they will attend. Registration will open Tuesday, May 26. Parents should register their children who will sit with them during the service. Registrants will receive a confirmation email and will be checked in by a host at the door. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the church office at (256) 353-5912 to make your reservation (no later than the Thursday before a particular Sunday). You will be able to cancel your reservation if your plans change.
- **Seating:** Please enter the building through Worship Center doors under the canopy. In order to keep cleanliness standards, other entrances will not be available. All seating in the service will adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Members of the same households (living under one roof) will be able to sit together. Deacons will seat people from the front to the back of the Worship Center.
- **Service Order:** We will have three 45-50 minute services on Sunday mornings - 8:15, 9:30 and 10:45. This allows us to adequately prepare the Worship Center for you to enter, exit and properly sanitize in between each service. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to your scheduled service. Please stay in your car until 15 minutes prior to your scheduled service.
- **Masks:** All who attend the service (5 years old and older) will be required to wear a mask. If you do not have one, we will provide one for you when you arrive.
- **Kids & Students:** We will neither provide nursery/childcare nor have other age graded activities. In addition, all kids and students will sit with their families for the worship service.
- **Offering:** We will no longer pass the plate for the offering. Offering boxes will be at the entrances and exits for you to drop your offering and any other information that needs to go to the church office. As always, you may choose to give your tithes and offerings online instead.
- **Sanitizing:** We will sanitize bathrooms, doors, and chairs between each service.
- **Greeters:** Masks and gloves will be provided for all greeters.
- **For Now:** In order to avoid people touching the same objects, we will not provide worship guides, coffee, or have a greeting time within the services. To adhere to physical distance guidelines, there will be no choir for foreseeable future.
- **Ushers:** Our Deacons will serve as ushers inside of the Worship Center. Please look to their leadership as we seat people for Worship and as we exit the Worship Center following Worship.
- **Small Groups:** Will continue to meet by Zoom and online. Small groups meeting by Zoom will meet at another time, other than Sunday morning, in order for members to be able to choose the service they would like to attend. For those small group classes not using Zoom, an online lesson will be available throughout the day.