

Safe Assembly Strategy - Phase 1

Almost two months ago, we accepted the recommendations of the Governor of Mississippi and our city officials regarding health concerns from Coronavirus. Since that time, we have had online services and drive-in services that were well attended and fun for our church family. We have humbly accepted the guidelines of the state for the health and safety of our church family, our relatives, and the greater community which we serve.

However, just as humbly as we've abided by these recommendations, we now humbly declare that it is time to meet back as a church family. We are going to take the proper steps to ensure the safety of our church family, as well as those who attend as our guests. Please understand, no one loves a church family like their pastor, and I would never want to jeopardize the health and well-being of any member. I know there will be a variety of opinions about reopening, but we will remain humble and support one another as we move forward.

Our schedule through the month of June will be as follows:

- **Sunday morning** (*in the auditorium*): **9:00am** (for those 60 yrs old & older ONLY)
- **Sunday morning** (*in the auditorium*): **11:00am** (for those under age 60)
- **Sunday evening: 5:00pm** (*livestream only*)
- **Wednesday evening: 7:00pm** (*livestream only*)

This June schedule will be subject to change as circumstances develop, so please stay aware of any social media announcements.

Our strategy for a safe assembly will require a few restrictions. While on our campus we ask you to observe the following guidelines:

1. We will have **9:00am & 11:00am identical services on Sunday**. There will **not be a Sunday School hour on property**. Teachers may meet with their classes via Facebook Group, YouTube, etc. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services will still be provided through our app, website, and Facebook Live.
2. The **Bookstore will remain closed** until further notice, and there will be **NO breakfast or coffee available**.
3. Everyone attending the English-speaking service in the main auditorium will need to enter the main auditorium doors in the front of the building. Other entrance doors will remain locked.
4. Nursery services **will NOT be provided**.
We realize that small children may not sit through an entire service (though **services will be abbreviated**). We will have nursery rooms open (*for one parent and child ONLY*) for your use under the following guidelines:
 - a) Two rooms will be open with a **10-person limit**.
 - b)

- c) **No snacks/drinks will be allowed.** Moms can make/heat up bottles as needed.
 - d) Children should be changed ONLY in the nursery at the designated area. *There will wipes, Clorox wipes, and hand sanitizer available for your use. Please sanitize after using.*
 - e) **Nursery rooms will only be available for children up to 2 years old with one parent.** Children 3 years old and up should stay in the auditorium with their parents.
 - f) All parents and children that enter the nursery area must have their temperatures checked by our staff before entering a nursery room.
5. **Families will come into the auditorium as a unit, stay together as a unit, and sit together** as a unit. There should be **no mingling among teenagers or children.** We will have seating available every other row, **keeping 3 empty chairs between families** seated in the same row.
 6. Restrooms will be open for use, but we ask that **no more than 2 people be in restrooms at one time.** Please wait in line outside the restrooms keeping a six-foot spacing distance.
 7. **We ask that there be no contact with others outside your family.** We haven't been together in a while and the natural tendency will be to greet each other with a hug or handshake, but please refrain so that we may be blameless if a sickness should arise.
 8. **Please follow all posted signs,** i.e., "Do Not Enter," "6' Social Distancing," etc.
 9. **Anyone not feeling well (showing symptoms such as fever, shortness of breath, cough, or children with green mucus) SHOULD NOT attend services.**
 10. **If you are elderly and/or at risk,** please use wisdom in attending services. Livestream will be available.
 11. If you feel a mask and gloves are best for precautionary measures, we encourage you to wear them. Unfortunately, **we will NOT have masks or gloves available.** Please bring a mask and gloves if you deem them necessary.
 12. **The Spanish ministry will enter the Missions Wing by family units,** and they will remain in the Missions Wing building. **Our Spanish church family will abide by the same procedures stated here.**
 13. Our facilities will be cleaned thoroughly before and after each service.
 14. Doors at specified entrances will remain open to reduce contact with handles.

As much as we are anticipating our return to church, we must be wise. Our goal is not to defy the government, but to honor and obey our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Just as we have humbly abided by the recommendations of our government officials, we will humbly abide by these guidelines from our church leadership. We wish to be *blameless, harmless, and above reproach* as we obey our Biblical mandate to assemble, and as we exercise our First Amendment rights.