

May 15, 2020

Dear Church Family,

We are pleased to let you know that we will be resuming limited public services on Sunday, May 24th! While things will be different than they were before the pandemic, it will be worth it just to be together!

Starting on May 24, we will be holding two morning services at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, allowing for time between the services for our cleaning staff to sanitize the building. While we are still encouraging the elderly and people with health risks to remain at home and watch our service the same way they have since this started, the early service will be designated primarily for those over sixty. The second service will be designated for the rest of our congregation. Doing this will help enable us to hold services while maintaining social distances. Because of the need to social distance, every other pew will be closed, and everyone in attendance will be asked to maintain separation of six feet between others in their pew who are not in their immediate household. The same standards of social distance will need to be maintained as people enter and leave the building. I know this won't be easy, but it will be worth it. Be aware of the following details as well:

- The building will be thoroughly sanitized before and after services.
- Only the Worship Center entry doors will be unlocked and will be propped open.
- Consider taking your temperature before attending and wearing a face covering while in the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available, but everyone will be encouraged to bring and use their own.
- We will not be offering any children's ministries at this time, including nursery.
- Service length will be kept to an hour or less.
- Offering receptacles will be available rather than passing offering plates.
- Projector screens will be used in place of hymnals, pew Bibles, and bulletins.
- Services will end with an orderly dismissal starting from the back and moving forward, enabling us to social distance and fellowship outside.
- Please attempt to use restrooms before attending services to minimize usage at the church. Bathrooms will be accessible if necessary and cleaned accordingly.

While this is a long list, isn't exhaustive. This should give you a good idea of how we plan to begin to meet again. You are probably wondering about additional services. At this time we will not be offering anything additional. We are hoping to begin an evening service along with Wednesday night prayer and Saturday morning prayer once again, but it will depend on continued guidance from our elected officials and how well things go with our morning services. Returning to holding all our normal ministries is not likely to happen until we are convinced that it is safe and responsible. We pray that will occur sometime this summer.

Finally, we want to remind our church family to be gracious in response to the many decisions that are being made in relationship to this pandemic. Remember, none of our leaders are perfect or omniscient. Time will reveal which decisions made by both elected and spiritual leaders were wise, and which ones were unwise. Even in our church body there are numerous opinions that range from one end of the spectrum to the other. Wherever you land on that spectrum, I trust that you will respond graciously to others that may not agree with you. Romans 14 provides us with great principles to practice when we disagree with other believers. Be sure to read it and practice its principles.

Feel free to email or call us if you have any questions about the plans. Continue to pray for one another. Lord willing, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Serving the Savior,

Abbe Road Baptist Church Advisory Board
Bob James, Gary Hales, Jim Roth, Bryan Wolfli, and Dean Reinhart