

GUIDELINES FOR RETURN TO PUBLIC SERVICE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
111 W. Monument Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Approved: June 17, 2020

Our return to public worship is not, and should not be, based on our own comfort, desires and/or preferences. It is to provide a safe facility and meeting time to protect our staff and congregation during this period of time that the COVID-19 pandemic is active. These guidelines are tools to assist in meeting the "Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith" established by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We will follow the directions and recommendations/orders established by the governor and health center of the State of Ohio.

Any staff or congregants who are sick are asked to stay home.

Those who may not be comfortable and/or are higher risk for severe illness are encouraged to remain at home. Video streaming of the service will be provided later in the day.

Suggested Guidelines and Considerations

1. Preparation of facilities for opening

All members of the church will be provided copies of these guidelines and requested to complete the acknowledgement form.

- a. Partition off every other pew to establish distancing
- b. Block entrance to the office area/assembly room, stairways (going to second floor), and hall leading to the Beaver Wing to prevent congregating and minimizing areas needing to be sanitized. The stairs to the men's and women's restrooms will be open.

- c. Restrooms (basement only) will be marked that only two persons at a time and a safe 6 foot distance must be observed. Hand sanitizer to be used both going in and coming out. Hand wipes to be supplied to wipe down the door handle
- d. Provide signage in appropriate areas as reminders to keep ones face covered, greet one another in ways that acknowledges each other without physically touching, and to maintain the recommended 6 foot distancing.
- e. Prior to the first open service, all pews, door handles, light switches, tables, restrooms and any areas normally touched are to be sanitized.. Following each Sunday service the sanctuary will be closed off for 48 hours. This will allow any contaminate to abate. All other areas where individuals are working should be cleaned prior to their working. During the week, the church musicians such as organists are responsible for cleaning the areas they touch when leaving.
- f. Have adequate hygiene supplies, such as soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, hand sanitizer available. Ushers are to check dispensers prior to each service to insure batteries are functional, and that backup batteries are available.
- g. Ushers/greeters to have disinfectant available to wipe down the hand rails leading into the church (mainly at the South East entrance) before and after the service and every ten minutes if possible. At the two designated entrances to the sanctuary, disinfectant dispensers have been provided.
- h. If a person becomes sick the ushers will help them leave the church building.
- i. Nursery service will not be provided.
- j. Signs will be posted encouraging all to enter via the South East entrance at the Narthex but the ramp entrance will be available for those that need to avoid any steps.
- k. Ushers will receive special orientation to their responsibilities.
- l. Doors to the sanctuary and outdoors will be left open. Portico and marking of 6 feet spacing will be done to encourage social distancing.

2. Worship Guidelines

- a. All service attendees, including staff, must be wearing face masks. If they do not have one, the church will provide one for them. **The service is open for those attendees who can and will wear a face mask.** Not using a cloth face covering may also be appropriate at times for some individuals who have trouble breathing or need assistance to remove their mask. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask. During the service the participants (ministers, readers, soloists, organists), once seated, do not have to keep their masks on since they are 20 feet away from the congregation. When entering and leaving the sanctuary they are to wear their mask.
- b. Hand sanitizer to be placed at each entrance to the sanctuary .
- c. Worship service should be shortened in duration to reduce the exposure to a crowd.
- d. Children's Sunday School will be postponed. Parents are encouraged to bring items to keep their children busy. No materials will be provided at this time.
- e. Doors should be propped open to limit the number of times they are touched and to provide addition ventilation.
- f. Bulletins may be passed out by the ushers/greeters but they must be wearing gloves. Optional for worship committee to decide.
- g. SEATING: Every other row is to be blocked off. Family members may sit together. Next family in the same row should leave a 6 foot spacing. The ushers have the right to redistribute seating of congregants as needed to conform to the 6 foot social distancing.
- h. No coffee fellowship will be offered during this time.
- i. No handshaking or direct physical contact is to be made between attendees.
- j. Congregants will be informed that if they want to leave an offering they

can do so at designated boxes provided by exits within the sanctuary, mail to the church office or complete online. Offerings can be left in the box for 48 hours prior to handling by the church treasurer or may be handled sooner if gloves are used.

- k. To remain safe, celebration of baptism or communion will not be offered.
- l. Choir and or congregational singing will not be used. Soloist or small ensemble may be used.

Leaving the service at its conclusion

Those members on the East side (right facing the pulpit) will go forward and leave the sanctuary through the door on the right and exit down the ramp.

Those members on the West side (left facing the pulpit) will go to the rear of the church and exit the sanctuary through the door that leads to the portico/parking lot.

It is recommended that hand sanitizer be used at time of exiting.

Prior to next service

After 48 hours have passed, all pews, door handles, light switches, tables, restrooms and any areas normally touched areas are to be sanitized in preparation for the next service.

FACE MASK GUIDELINES ARE ATTACHED

Approved by the Executive Council on June 17, 2020