

UPDATED COVID 19 PLAN FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

It is Pastor Monte's desire to accommodate both health safety and worship in as non-obtrusive a way as possible during the pandemic. The key elements of our plan rest upon individual responsibility and mutual respect. Pastor Monte and his staff desire to present as many options as practical to meet the varying degrees of risk tolerance within our congregation. Because of space limitations in our current facility and in order to fulfill these goals, the church will voluntarily offer the following options:

MASKS

1. At the discretion of attendees, masks may be worn to all events, public and private.
2. Should an attendee desire a mask, masks will be available at the welcome center, free of charge.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The CDC recommends social distancing during the pandemic. The following options are available to encourage as much social distancing as possible:

1. 3 WEEKLY SERVICES TO CHOOSE FROM

The church provides three worship services per week. While it is possible to socially distance in the Sunday morning service, it is more difficult to do so due to the crowd. Those with a lower risk tolerance are encouraged to avoid worship in the auditorium unless wearing a mask. Some may opt to attend only the other two services which are traditionally less crowded. The staff is not encouraging attendance as we normally would, leaving that decision up to the individual.

2. LIVESTREAMING OPTION

The church will continue to broadcast all services via livestream for those who are uncomfortable attending at this time. The staff respects the choice of those who wish to stay at home during the pandemic.

3. DESIGNATED "MASK REQUIRED SPACE"

The church is designating the west overflow room in the educational wing (Room 105) as a "mask required space" for Sunday morning services. Those who feel more comfortable in a room where all are wearing a mask should attend in that room.

4. BALCONY SPACE FOR SUNDAY PM AND WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Those desiring strict social distancing for the Sunday evening service and Wednesday evening service will find that the balcony provides ample room for spacing out during those services.

5. OFFERING AND LORD'S SUPPER PROCEDURE CONTINUING

To limit contact, offerings can be dropped off in the lobbies following the church services and the Lord's Supper will not include the congregational passing the elements.

6. NO FELLOWSHIP/HANDSHAKE TIME

We are suspending the fellowship/handshake time during the services.

THE PRIORITY IS UNITY

Paul said in Ephesians 4:1-3, "...beseech you that ye walk...with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Church unity is a major emphasis of the New Testament epistles and maintaining church unity is a priority as we respond to the Covid 19 situation. While members with varying risk tolerances may disagree over the particulars of appropriate actions, we must all agree that unity is essential and forbearance in love is a Biblical attitude. As Pastor, I therefore request that we respect each other's individual decisions and preferences regarding these issues and that we seek to function as normally as possible within the options presented. Criticizing someone for taking or failing to take precautions that mirror our own falls outside the purview of my request and the Biblical admonition to avoid judging one another (Romans 14:10-12). Both individual responsibility and mutual respect are keys to maintaining the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" as we worship at Faith Baptist Church.