



Gathered Worship Plan

Meadow Brook Baptist Church *Thursday, May 21, 2020*

As you are well aware, we made the decision on March 13 to suspend all our in-person gatherings, and we have continued to meet online since that time. We believed then (and we still believe now) that such a decision was necessary for the health of our own church family, as well as our community as a whole. Moreover, we believe that such a concern for one another and for our neighbors should remain, even as we begin looking toward the next steps. This document contains important information regarding the **next steps Meadow Brook Baptist Church will be taking** in light of the current health crisis caused by COVID-19. **Please read it carefully and review it as needed.**

We will begin our “phase one” of gathering again on **Sunday, June 7, 2020**. This initial phase of gathering will extend through at least the month of June and will consist of **Sunday morning worship only**. We know that some of you may prefer us to delay gathering for even longer, and others of you may prefer to gather even sooner. Either way, let’s pray for a spirit of unity in Christ’s church, love for each other, and love for our neighbors. Jesus said that His people would be known by their love (Jn. 13:35).

Schedule & Venues

The Sanctuary will host identical, 45-minute worship services at 8:00AM, 9:30AM, and 11:00AM for the month of June. This will allow us to spread the congregation out over multiple services in order to maintain proper social distancing. We will initially use an online sign-up link in order to gauge attendance for each service. If needed, the Fellowship Hall may be used as an overflow space with a live stream from the Sanctuary. For this phase, Sunday School groups will not yet gather in person, and we encourage Sunday School groups to continue meeting online.

Guiding Factors

In addition to what the Scripture teaches us about corporate worship, we have:

- Prayed for clear wisdom from the Lord
- Reviewed our government leaders’ guidelines for reopening
- Sought counsel from our COVID Advisory Team (comprised of MBBC medical professionals)
- Received helpful input from you through a congregational survey

Capacities

The Sanctuary will have alternating pews blocked off, allowing us to practice social distancing of 6 feet or more in every direction between participants from different households. If utilized as an overflow space, the Fellowship Hall will be set up with rows at 6 foot spacing.

Attendance

- We are asking you to sign-up online each week, allowing us to gauge attendance and prepare adequately for our worship gatherings. In order to best utilize space, our ushers will help direct attendees to appropriate seats.
- During this phase, please help us by not arriving more than 15 minutes before the worship service begins, and by departing in a timely manner. We will catch up on fellowship soon!

Before you Come

- If you or someone in your household is especially at high risk to the Coronavirus, please continue to participate in our services online during this phase.
- If you are not high risk and are comfortable attending public worship at this time, please make sure you are healthy. If you are symptomatic, have a fever, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, please stay at home.
- For the safety of everyone in attendance, we ask that all people bring a face mask (including children 3 years and older) and wear your face mask once you exit your vehicle.

Adjustments

- We will only utilize the upper parking lot, closing off access to the lower level of the building. We ask that everyone enter and exit through the main entrance at the Sanctuary portico.
- For everyone's safety, the following will not be possible during at least this first phase:
 - There will be no nursery or children's church.
 - There will be no printed bulletins.
 - There will be no greeting time.
 - There will be no Pew Bibles or Hymnals.
 - We will not pass offering/Communion plates
- Worship services will be 45 minutes and family-friendly, so come with your young children.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all venue entrances, as well as outside restrooms. Please utilize upon entry and exit of restrooms, as well as when entering the building.
- We will complete enhanced cleaning between services.
- All staff, volunteers, and attendees are to wear masks, except for platform personnel when on stage.
- We will provide temperature checks for all staff and volunteers.
- We will have stationary plates to collect tithes and offerings upon exiting the service.
- We will dismiss everyone in an orderly manner to maintain social distancing.

Sincerely,

Your Pastors, Staff, and COVID-19 Advisory Team