



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

August 21, 2020

Dear Church,

As elders, our goal has been nothing short of trying to honor God as we lead through these challenging times for churches everywhere. We shared in a previous letter the four guiding principles/commands that we have been instructed to live by according to God's Word. All of our decisions have been carefully weighed and these principles have guided us in making those decisions. We decided to meet outdoors as weather permitted and we have done so, believing it to be the safest way for us to gather and still respect the intent of the CDC guidelines. We also know that it was not a long-term solution. We all agree that we need to start holding indoor services very soon. Our plan is to launch indoor services on September 13th. Here is the plan:

Date of the Launch: Sept. 13th, 2020

Service Times: We will hold a 9am service and a 10:45am service. At this point, we are not requiring any kind of sign up to attend a service. We believe that we are prepared without having a sign-up, however, that may change as we begin to hold services.

Children's Ministry: There will be childcare from birth through 3rd grade in each service for the duration of the service.

- Christi will be utilizing the nursery and the two upstairs classrooms for kids in the first service for kids birth through 3rd grade. She will also utilize the nursery and the Elementary area for the second service. This will help cut down on the amount to clean between services.
- We will continue to provide take-home lessons for parents to invest in the kids.
- We will be announcing specific safety protocols for the kids and those volunteering in these areas in the coming weeks.

Hospitality: We want people to feel welcomed and safe.

- We will have people wearing masks at the front doors verbally greeting people and handing out weekly announcements as well as the prayer page as people enter the sanctuary.
- No offering taken up during the service. We will continue to encourage online giving, however, there will be a couple of offering boxes in the lobby for people to give.

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PASTOR OF
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MINISTRIES

CHRISTI SWAIN
DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Life Groups: We are encouraging Life Groups to meet outside of the Sunday Morning time.

Protocols: These are the safety measures we will be implementing.

- Cleaning procedures will be implemented between the two services, including wiping down doors, chairs, and bathrooms.
- Masks are required from the doors to your seat in the auditorium.
- There will be "mask required" rows in the back of the auditorium for those who desire to be around others who have their mask on. We believe the back is the safest place for those who desire to where a mask because everyone will be facing forward.
- Chairs are in rows that are 6 feet apart. We will be encouraging those from different families to sit three chairs down in the row, in keeping with CDC guidelines.
- Sanitation stations will be placed around the building.
- Auditorium windows will be open as the weather allows.
- We will have masks available for people as they enter the church.
- When the service is finished, we ask that people not linger in the lobby or the auditorium. We will need to clean those spaces before the next service, so please help us out by exiting these areas.

We know we are asking our people to do things that they might not desire to do. We get it! We don't want to ask it, but these are not normal times. We are asking everyone to be flexible and compassionate toward one another. We are asking people to avoid making assumptions or judgments about your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We are asking the church to rise above all this and show genuine love for one another. We are asking for grace toward each other as we gather. We are anticipating the church to shine in these moments that can easily be a distraction to what is really important. May the name of Jesus be honored and lifted up before others by the way His church rises up. As we move toward our indoor service please consider what the apostle Paul is asking of believers in a local church. May this be true of our hearts in these challenging times.

"2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

-Ephesians 4:2-6

Blessings,
The Elders of First Baptist Church of Lowell

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| Pastor Jon Pickens | Pastor Andrew Bolkcom |
| Mike Sullivan | Michael Pasquale |
| John Gerard | Phil VanLaan |
| Tim Kalee | Robert Copeland |