



**FIRST** BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
**FORT MILL**

Dear Church Family,

The apostle Paul wrote, *"But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,"* (1 Thessalonians 2:17, ESV). I can identify. I have missed seeing everyone face to face over the past few weeks.

I wanted to give you a quick update about our plans to begin gathering again on campus while we continue to offer worship at home online. We want to gather in a worship only setting in a way that is safe, smart and adjustable.

We will begin small gatherings for worship on our campus on **Sunday, June 7th at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.** There will be no ABF or separate activities for students, children or preschoolers. Everyone will gather in the worship environments only. We will begin small and build little-by-little as we learn lessons along the way.

#### **A few quick facts about how we are preparing:**

- We will have three simultaneous environments for worship gatherings (Worship Center, Chapel and Fellowship Hall) at both hours. The Blended Services will meet in the Chapel while the Contemporary Services will be in the Worship Center and Fellowship Hall.
- All environments will have limited seating to allow for proper social distancing.
- We will have registration online for the worship services so we can limit the attendance and provide the safest on-campus experience until we learn a little bit about attendance patterns and how to best prepare for and move people while on our campus. Registration will begin on the Monday prior to Sunday's services through our website and a link we will email you.
- We will seat people much like a restaurant to help maintain safe social distancing and maximize our seating capacity.
- We will clean the seats and high traffic areas between services and therefore are allowing extra time between services for this cleaning.
- We will intentionally start small and then increase our capacity over time as we learn some lessons over the first few weeks.
- Staff and volunteers will wear masks.
- Additional hand-sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the campus.
- No water fountains will be open or usable.
- No coffee or food will be offered.
- No offering baskets will be passed. Instead, there will be giving stations near the exits of the worship environments for those who want to give in person instead of online.
- All seatback materials, papers, and pens will be removed.

- Online services will continue as they have been for the past several weeks.

### How you can prepare:

- Have an attitude of prayerful flexibility.
- If you or any member of your family does not feel well, has potentially been exposed to Covid-19 or has health concerns that place you at higher risk, please stay home and join us online.
- We encourage you to consider wearing a mask (you may take it off once you have been seated and put it on again when you are moving about potentially interacting with others).
- Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.
- Maintain an appropriate social distance of six feet between yourself and others.
- Move in and out of the lobbies and hallways quickly and visit with others primarily outside maintaining appropriate social distancing.

In addition, I want to ask you to do a couple of things in preparation for regathering on our campus.

1. **Pray** for God's wisdom to guide us every step of the way. Pray for the health and safety of all involved. Pray for God to use this time for His glory and His Kingdom.

2. If you are able to **volunteer** to help there are two areas of great need:

- Welcome ministry - We will need many more people than usual to help adequately staff the three worship environments - please contact [Ken Terry](#).
- Cleaning team - We need volunteers to help clean between services to prepare for the next service - please contact [Shannon Ford](#).

**As always, we want everyone to make the decision that is the wisest for them and for their family.** This is just the beginning of a long journey back and not everyone should or will participate in this stage of the process.

We want to assure everyone that the church family will continue to gather online as well as gather on campus. We are not evaluating anyone's faith or faithfulness based on their attendance on campus. We are simply beginning to offer more options as we start the journey back to gathering regularly on campus in the weeks and months ahead.

By God's grace, I look forward to seeing you soon face to face!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

  


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