



# RE-GATHERING PLAN PHASE TWO

## KEYWORDS IN RE-GATHERING

### BIBLICAL:

We must strive to maintain a Biblical expression of New Testament worship: this is not a question of whether or not a congregation should assemble, but how they will do so in the best interest of public health and testimony to its community.

### PHASE-IN:

We should commit to making each service the best it can be while still submitting to the larger scope of wisdom. Phasing-in will not only help avoid gathering too soon but also not hold your church in this online-only era for longer than needed but still not rushing the process.

### SAFE:

Recognize the possibility that in-person gatherings will look different. For the sake of health and life, consider each gathering needing to have a reduced capacity. This area will influence how you hold weekend worship, children's and student ministry, and small groups.

We emphasize the word "Re-Gathering" in our plan as the church has never been closed. Businesses, schools, and buildings have closed, but not the church. We have continued to carry out ministry in all our different ministry areas at FBCW and have continued to have a weekly community outreach through the past couple of months as well.

These plans are for "Re-Gathering" purposes. We want to ensure that as we begin to gather corporately for worship and eventually other meetings that we do so in the most God-honoring, Christ-like and wisest manner possible for the sake of our church and the community.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED IN OUR PHASE ONE "RE-GATHERING" PLAN.

## PHASE TWO CHANGES

### BEGINNING SUNDAY, JULY 5

These phase two plans are changes and updates from our phase one measures. Unless stated in this phase two plan, all other measures from phase one are still in effect.

#### 1. BATHROOMS WILL BE OPEN TO CONGREGANTS

- Our bathrooms will be available for public usage while on campus.
- We will have a bathroom attendant stationed in each bathroom to continually clean the bathroom after each usage and help maintain proper distancing measures.
- If a congregant needs to use the restroom after they have already been seated for the service, all congregants on the pew will need to step into the aisle to allow exit. Do not cross or pass over one another in the pew. (*Example: Same rules as on an airplane, move into the aisle to allow those seated next to you to exit to the bathroom*)
- Bathrooms will be available in the foyer on the Bearden Hall side only.

## 2. ALL AGE GROUPS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

- We are no longer discouraging those 60+ in age from attending.
  - i. We were discouraging those in our 60+ age ranges from attending for added safety as we began our initial efforts to re-gather in the building.
  - ii. We do ask that those over the age of 60 use personal wisdom and discretion in deciding whether to attend.
  - iii. We are still highly discouraging those who are medically compromised from attending at this time.

## 3. VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGE GROUPS MAY SERVE

- Volunteers in our 60+ age range will be allowed to serve if they feel comfortable and are not experiencing any health-related issues or are medically compromised.
- Again, we are asking each volunteer to use personal wisdom and discretion in deciding whether to serve.

# IMPORTANT NOTES AND REMINDERS

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### • MASKS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED BY ALL CONGREGANTS

- We will still require all attendees over the age of 10 to wear face masks while in the church building.
- Per VA Executive Order - 63
- In a spirit of Romans 13, we will be complying with this order while it is in effect.
  - Romans 13 instructs Christians to be subject to the governing authorities. The civil authorities have a difficult task ahead, and we should seek to be a part of the solution through cooperation and service to our community.
  - Considering we have brother and sister churches across our globe who regularly meet with fear of real persecution, we believe wearing masks out of an abundance of caution and reasonableness is a minor inconvenience.

### • ALL DISTANCING AND CLEANING MEASURES FROM PHASE ONE ARE STILL IN EFFECT

- The building will be as touchless as possible.
  - Open doors.
  - No offering plates will be passed.
  - No print bulletins.
  - No hard copy bibles or hymnals in the pews.
- Easily accessible hand-sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the foyer.
- One-way traffic flows.
- 6 ft. distanced seating.
- Pews, doors, and common areas are cleaned before and after each worship service.

### • SERVICE REGISTRATION

- If you wish to attend one of our in-person services, you will need to sign-up online the week prior to worship as seating is limited.
  - Reservations will help us ensure maximum usage of our 225 (25%) capacity for each of these Sunday AM in-person services. *\*Reservations may not be an absolute guarantee so please arrive early.*

### • ONLINE SERVICES WILL CONTINUE

- We will continue to live stream online services at 9:00 AM and 11:10 AM.
  - Both services will be available on the church website, Facebook, and YouTube.

### • PHASE THREE CONSIDERATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED AND CONSIDERED

- **ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES:** We anticipate that in our phase three plans we will be able to begin implementing other ministries of the church, including Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and potentially small groups on campus.
  - We will implement the safest realistic precautions as we work to implement these age-graded ministries, even beyond the required standards of the general childcare industry.
  - This is all contingent upon continued progress with the status of Coronavirus in Northern Virginia and our local community.

- **ADDITIONAL SERVICES:** As the numbers of our current two Sunday morning services continue to increase to capacity, we will give continued evaluation to add additional services throughout the week to safely accommodate in-person worship attendance. While we are grateful we have been able to maintain a connection through our online services, we believe it is vitally and biblically important for the church to work toward worshipping together under one roof in one form or another.
  - While are absolutely committed to both our contemporary and traditional expressions of worship music, under the current guidelines, it is not prudent for our wonderful choir and orchestra to assemble at this time. We will incorporate traditional elements and ensembles into our services, but for the coming phase they will primarily remain identical in style.
  - Our definite intention is to reinstate both as soon as it is feasible and safe to do so.
    - Our hope and plan is that there may be a real possibility for a decidedly more overt traditional musical service as we move into phase three in the coming months.

## THANK YOU

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We want to share our heartfelt gratitude to YOU, our First Family for your continued prayers, encouragement of one another, faithfulness to tune in, and your consistent giving. All of these are VITALLY important to keep First Baptist moving as a “Go and Tell” church in our community and to help prepare the way in the coming months for us to resume our activity in this body and community for the gospel.

We know that as these days, weeks and months continue to seemingly drag on, it gets tougher to stay focused. Be encouraged to stay alert, set your minds upon the Word, and remain steadfast in prayer. STAY CONNECTED. Continue to worship, grow, and give. Our faithfulness now will have real implications for the coming months.

Thank you for your faithfulness, reasonableness, and patience. Maintaining our safety measures in a phased approach will help protect all congregants if the virus continues to spread in the community.

- *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. – 1 Peter 5:6-7*
- *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. – John 16:33*
- *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. – 1 John 5:4*