First Baptist Church of Omaha
COVID-19 Guidelines as of 08/11/2020

It has been five months since we last met together in person to worship at First Baptist Church of Omaha. Although we have met together in heart and spirit through our online Sunday services and Wednesday messages, it hasn’t been the same. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed our lives. The first step towards reopening the church will occur on August 16th when we hold the Worship Service in the Sanctuary. Although the church will be open, it will be up to each individual to determine if it is the right time for them to return. The online service will also be available on August 16th so everyone can decide the best way for them to worship.

Although we will be holding the Worship Service in the building, it will look a lot different. In order to worship together safely, we will follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. This is a small sacrifice to keep everyone safe. Individuals can have COVID-19 and be a carrier without showing any symptoms. A status of our activities and a summary of the new guidelines for the Worship Service are outlined below. We ask that everyone follow the guidelines out of respect for our fellow believers and to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

1. Activity Status
   
   a. **Sunday Activities**
      (1) FBCO Worship Service will start on August 16th at 10:00 am and last around 40 minutes,
      (2) All Sunday School Classes are cancelled until further notice,
      (3) All other Sunday activities are on hold including the Karen Worship Service.
   
   b. **FBCO Office Schedule**
      (1) The office is scheduled to open Tuesday, August 18th and will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
   
   c. **Other FBCO Activities**
      (1) Family Night Life (FNL) is cancelled until further notice,
      (2) Cabinet meetings are being held via Zoom,
      (3) Library is closed.
   
   d. **Saturday Community Meals**
      Process is under review to distribute packaged meals/sack lunches in the parking lot.
   
   e. **Hygiene Bags**
      Hygiene bags will be distributed in the parking lot – dates will be announced later.
   
   f. **Outside Groups**
      Outside groups will not be allowed to use the building until further notice.

2. Responsibilities
   
   a. **Individuals**
      (1) Please stay home so you don’t put others at risk if
         (a) You have COVID-19 or feel ill (cold, fever, cough, sinus infection, etc.),
         (b) Individuals in your household are sick,
         (c) You have been exposed to an individual who has COVID-19 or is sick.
First Baptist Church of Omaha
COVID-19 Guidelines as of 08/11/2020

Note: CDC recommends individuals who are 65 years or older and individuals with underlying health conditions should continue to stay home as much as possible.

(2) Cough or sneeze in a tissue, your sleeve, or your elbow,
(3) Social distance – stay at least 6 feet away from people not in your family,
(4) Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds,
(5) Don't touch your face,
(6) Wear a face mask to protect the people around you.

b. FBCO (Prior To Worship Service)

(1) Sanctuary, traffic routes, and restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned before worship,
(2) Social distancing lines will be marked six feet apart in traffic routes,
(3) Pews will be blocked off to allow six feet between rows,
(4) Hymnals, Bibles, prayer cards, visitor cards, offering envelopes, and pencils will be removed from the pews,
   Note: Please bring your Bible or use a Bible app on your phone.
(5) Children’s activity bags will not be available,
(6) Hand sanitizer stations will be located at the entrances,
(7) HVAC fan will continually run to move air and improve ventilation,
(8) Touch points will be minimized at entrances and exits,
(9) Pulpit will be moved up to the platform to minimize exposure to speakers,
(10) Drinking fountains will not be available and will be blocked off,
(11) Water system continues to be flushed out and is safe.

3. Worship Service Guidelines

a. General

(1) All individuals over two years old are to wear a face mask at all times when they are in the building – limited quantities of disposable face masks will be available,
   Note: As of Tuesday, August 11, 2020 this is the mandate for the city of Omaha.
(2) Individuals should not shake hands, hug, elbow bump, or fist bump,
(3) There will be no choir, band, or bells,
(4) Due to several considerations, there will be no Nursery - all children will accompany their parents at church,
(5) At the entrance to the Sanctuary, there will be a container to receive the offering, Offering plates will not be passed during the service.
(6) There will be no Coffee Hour or coffee stand in the west hallway,
(7) Bulletins will not be available – order of worship will be projected on a slide before the service starts,
(8) Seating
   (a) Families will sit six feet away from next family in the row,
   (b) Families will sit with six feet between rows (2 vacant rows),
   (c) Children will sit in pew entire time (not in the aisle or moving around),
(9) Only the family restroom on the main floor will be open
   (a) Minimize trips to the restroom to reduce touching shared surfaces – restroom won't be cleaned between each use,
   (b) Restroom Monitor will stand outside the restroom to wipe down door handles and regulate number of people in the restroom before and after Worship Service,
(10) Trash containers will be located at the exits to dispose of trash,
First Baptist Church of Omaha
COVID-19 Guidelines as of 08/11/2020

Note: We are asking people to make sure nothing is left in the pews.

(11) Individuals are asked to exit the building immediately after the Worship Service ends without gathering or socializing in the building,
(12) If somebody gets ill during the Worship Service and requires an ambulance due to COVID-19 symptoms, they will be moved to the Chapel until the ambulance arrives,
(13) COVID-19 cases must be reported to health officials and building must then be thoroughly cleaned.

b. Traffic Flow
(1) Individuals will enter building through east parking lot door
   (a) All other external doors will be locked,
   (b) Parking lot door will be unlocked from 9:30 am until 10:15 am
       (fifteen minutes after the Worship Service starts),
(2) Ushers will be located at the door and other strategic locations to direct traffic,
(3) Families must stay at least six feet apart while moving in the building,
(4) Individuals will go down the ramp, across Fellowship Hall, and up the staircase to get to Sanctuary Door (restrooms and kitchen on lower level will be closed),
(5) Individuals will enter Sanctuary through west entrance (north door),
(6) Ushers will seat individuals in designated areas starting from the front and moving back (individuals will not be able to select where they sit),
(7) When the service is over, Ushers will dismiss the pews starting from the back and moving towards the front making sure families are at least six feet apart,
(8) Individuals will exit Sanctuary through west entrance (north door), go down the staircase, across Fellowship Hall, up the ramp, and out the parking lot door.

Note: If an individual needs to leave the Worship Service temporarily, they should use the West entrance (south door) to prevent distancing issues with people entering the Sanctuary.

c. Individuals Requiring Elevator
(1) One family will be allowed to ride the elevator at a time and will enter the Sanctuary through the south entrance - couples will ride the elevator together,
(2) Ushers will seat individuals in designated areas starting from the back and moving towards the front (individuals will not be able to select where they sit),
(3) When the service is over, Ushers will dismiss the pews starting from the front and moving towards the back making sure families are at least six feet apart,
(4) Individuals will exit the Sanctuary through the south entrance and be dismissed when the elevator is available to ensure social distancing.

Please continue to pray for the health, safety, and jobs of those impacted by COVID-19 and the precautions taken to prevent further spread of the virus. We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation and reevaluate schedules and processes for activities as conditions change. Changes will be communicated to the congregation through email, Facebook, FBCO website, and mail/phone (for those who don’t have electronic devices). We look forward to worshiping together on August 16th – both in person and online. Our God is still in control!