

Dear Church Family,

If the Lord wills, **we will resume our physical worship gatherings on June 7th**. This letter contains a lot of important information. Please read everything carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

These are trying days and the decisions seem to be more weighty and heavier as we plan towards getting back together. We are not living in fear by trying to protect our most vulnerable. We want to make sure we do everything in our power to gather as safely as possible. The duration and circumstances of our lives are in God's hands ([HYPERLINK "https://biblia.com/bible/esv/James%204.15"](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/James%204.15) [James 4:15](#)). We don't fear a virus, and we don't fear death. We know that we can trust God for guidance and wisdom even when the world around us is in panic and fear.

However, we believe God has given us wisdom to use all the precautions available to us, so as to do our part in loving others. No one likes any of these precautions. This will be different and uncomfortable. But, in order to be able to gather, we need to follow the advice and recommendations we have been given. Please resist the temptation to grumble and complain. Fill your mind and heart with the joy of the Psalmist (122:1): **"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'"**

As we plan to open our doors again, we must acknowledge that Sundays are going to look and feel different for a while. Staying several seats apart, disinfecting surfaces, wearing masks, and things like foregoing passing out communion, "passing the offering plate, (and church coffee) may be the new normal for the near future. We will continue to partake in communion, and we will continue receive an offering. It may look different from how we have done it in the past. It may seem awkward, but the church can and will persevere.

Friends, this won't last forever. It's just an inconvenience we must put up with for a time. We are responding to the results of the church survey we recently took and we had nearly one hundred responses to the survey. So, thank you to those who filled out our church survey.

So, here are a few of the most important precautions we are putting in place:

We will meet for our 10:45am corporate worship service only. No Sunday School. No nursery. No other activities or events...at least for a while. We will be re-evaluating for June and July based on future information that we receive.

We encourage anyone who is more at risk for COVID-19 complications to continue watching the service online. This includes anyone over 65 or who has underlying health issues. We will continue services online for those who do not feel comfortable getting out at this time.

We strongly encourage anyone who is sick or who has been around anyone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19 to stay home and watch online.

We need to practice social distancing in our worship center. So, we have marked pews so that no one is sitting directly behind anyone else. Also, we are strongly encouraging family units and individuals to sit 6

feet apart from other family units or individuals. This means we need to only sit on the far ends of each pew (no one in the middle unless they are part of the same family unit sitting in that pew).

We strongly recommend everyone over 2 years old to wear a mask as they enter and exit the worship center (the times we will most likely be passing by or talking to others). We will have a limited number of masks available, if you don't have one. Children should remain with their parents the entire time inside the building, and not allowed to roam about freely.

Our doors will open at 10:30am for our 10:45am service. We are asking worshipers to wait in their vehicle until the doors are opened. We will have greeters outside the doors giving hand sanitizer. We also have antibacterial soap in our restrooms to wash your hands.

We will not have any bulletins. Everything has been removed from the pew racks. We will not pass an offering plate (there will be boxes in the worship center you can drop your offering into). The goal is for you to be able to enter and exit the worship center without touching anything or anyone. You should be able to come in, sit down, and leave without needing to touch anything (except the Bible you bring with you!).

The only doors that will be open will be the doors on the South end of the Great Hall. We are asking you to park on the South and East side of the building. If you park anywhere else, you will need to go around to the South doors to enter.

We need everyone to refrain from roaming around and using other areas of the building, for now. Thank you for only using the worship center, the Great Hall, and south hall bathrooms for the sake of our cleaning crew.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Once we see how things are going, I am confident that more and more opportunities will open. Our God is on His throne and He loves us so much. God, bless each of you!

Brother Ridge

Re-opening phases for Memorial Baptist Church 5/28/2020

Phase 1-All services and meetings practiced remotely.

Phase 2-Worship Service only. **Tentative...June 7th, 2020.**

physical distancing practices (pdp) and other safe practices encouraged. Rows marked off, masks available and strongly recommended, as well as hand sanitizer. Offering receiving practices modified. Fabric on pews and hard surfaces include bathrooms disinfected. All other groups and meetings online.

All at risk individuals, or folks with underlying health issues are encouraged to worship online. Members are encouraged to follow government distancing recommendations and their own comfort level. Public contact with one another should be limited, and at least permission should be requested so that folks are not made to feel uncomfortable. Don't assume that someone wants personal contact. Practice good personal hygiene, proper and frequent hand washing, using hand sanitizer.

Phase 3- **Date is yet to be determined.**

Same as Phase 2 add:

Connect groups to begin meeting following p.d.p.

Team Kids meeting following p.d.p.

Established Youth meeting following p.d.p.

MBC College ministry meeting following p.d.p.

Wednesday prayer service meeting (no meal) following p.d.p.

Nursery still not meeting

Phase 4- **Date is yet to be determined.**

Same as Phase 3 add:

Sunday School classes following p.d.p.

Children's worship time following p.d.p.

Nursery and Childcare following p.d.p.

Other study groups and committee meetings follow p.d.p.

Wednesday meal resumes with modifications

All other ministries are allowed to meet and function as needed.