

# **COVID-19 Guidelines for In-Person Worship Services**

## **First Baptist Church of Marion, NC**

- 1) If you are sick or have been in contact with someone who is sick over the last week, do not come. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or been in contact with someone who has tested positive over the last 2 weeks, do not come.
- 2) Access to the building will be only through the Fellowship Hall lobby doors. Doors will be unlocked at 10:30 a.m.
- 3) At each entrance, touchless temperature checks will be administered to all those entering the building. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4F or higher will not be admitted.
- 4) The sanctuary pews will be marked to arrange seating for social distancing. The Fellowship Hall will be a secondary gathering place for worship. The service livestream will be projected onto the Fellowship Hall screens and audio.
- 5) Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall capacity will be limited for appropriate social distancing. For the first few weeks, capacity will be limited to 40 persons in each location. Church leadership will reassess capacity after the initial two weeks.
- 6) Practice 6-foot social distancing with those who are not a part of your shelter-in-place group (your household and/or family). Before and after the service, avoid congregating at doorways or in corridors. Be mindful of social distancing and other people's personal space, especially as you travel about the church buildings.
- 7) Face coverings are required, except when you are speaking or singing as a leader in the service. Please bring your own face mask. For anyone who does not have a face covering, disposable face masks will be available. Preschool children are exempt from this requirement.
- 8) Wash your hands often. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- 9) Limit touching objects and each other. Resist touching your face, nose, mouth, and eyes. No hugs, handshakes, or kisses with those outside your shelter-in-place group. No hymnals will be used. Bulletins will be placed in advance at each designated seating location. All hymnals, offering envelopes, and pencils will be removed from the sanctuary.
- 10) Offering plates will not be passed. To give your tithes, offering plates will be placed at several locations in the sanctuary. Online giving is encouraged.
- 11) No congregational singing. Worship music will include instrumental pieces and limited solos/duets sung from the choir loft at a greatly increased social distance.
- 12) No Sunday School or childcare will be provided. Families with children are encouraged to come and be a part of worship. The congregation is encouraged to be welcoming and gracious towards families with children, knowing that children process worship in their own ways and may not be as attentive as we expect adults to be.
- 13) Services will be intentionally shorter in duration, approximately 45 minutes.
- 14) Upon completion of worship services, church staff will direct all in attendance to make an orderly exit of the building, avoiding crowding and respecting social distance. Sanctuary participants will primarily use three sanctuary exits. Fellowship Hall participants will primarily use lobby and side door exits.
- 15) Restrooms will be available for essential use with reduced capacity. Please wait until you get home, if you are able.
- 16) FBC's contracted cleaning service and custodian will be diligent sanitizing church facilities according to CDC guidelines before and after gatherings.

## **In-Person Worship Attendance Timeline**

**Monday, September 21 - Begin sharing “Welcome Back Video” along with other information about in-person gathering expectations and reservations process. Utilize newsletter, Facebook, YouTube channel, Sunday worship announcement, and traditional mailing.**

**Monday, September 28 - Reservations open at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday, October 4.**

- Reservations will be made by calling the Church Office during regular business hours during the appointed days and times. Jeannie Tisdale will oversee the reservation process and communicate with participants.
- Three reservation lists will be kept by the Church Office:
  - (1) Openings for 40 people in the Sanctuary, including 10 spaces reserved for staff, worship leadership, and audio-visual crew. Thus, 30 spaces will be available for worship participants.
  - (2) Openings for 40 people in the Fellowship Hall, including 2 audio-visual crew. Thus, 38 spaces available for worship participants.
  - (3) Waiting List with preference of seating location. If openings should occur prior to Sunday morning, those next on the waiting list will be contacted. Those who remain on the waiting list will have first right for the next Sunday’s worship reservations.
  - To allow everyone the opportunity to worship in-person in the sanctuary, those with sanctuary reservations one Sunday will not be allowed to make sanctuary reservations for the next Sunday until seating capacity is expanded.
- Successive weeks will follow same process and schedule (i.e. Reservations open on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and close on Thursdays at 12:00 Noon.)
- Fridays will be used to setup the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for worship, assigning seating and placing bulletins in place.

**Thursday, October 1 - Reservations close at 12:00 Noon for Sunday, October 4**

**Sunday, October 4 - Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, October 11 - Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, October 11 - Diaconate Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom - Evaluate first two Sundays and consider increasing numbers of in-person participants.**

**Sunday November 8 - Diaconate Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom - Evaluate how our process and procedures are working and consider any needed adjustments in numbers of in-person participants.**