

**Date: Monday, June 15, 2020**

**Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation and Capitol Baptist Church**

Dear Church Members,

Greetings in the name of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ! I want to begin by praising the Lord for His goodness to us all. As of today, I am not aware of anyone in our church family or any of their immediate family members that has contracted COVID-19. This is certainly an answer to prayer. I trust that your family is doing well through these trying times.

While there is a wide variety of opinions as to the severity of COVID-19 and to our nation's and state's response to it, we have tried to balance out the Bible command to obey God (Acts 5:29) and to submit to civil government (1 Peter 2:13). For 8 weeks, we were limited to having only livestream services due to the governor's State of Emergency Declaration and stay-at-home order. On Sunday, May 24, 2020, we were able to begin holding limited in-person services once again, after Governor Carney issued specific Phase 1 reopening guidelines that pertained to Houses of Worship. We were able to hold in-person services, but only at 30% occupancy. Beginning Monday, June 15, 2020, Delaware has entered Phase 2. This means that effective Wednesday, June 17, 2020, we will be able to hold services at 60% occupancy, which for us is about 140 people. At this time, we no longer see a need to divide up the services by last name, so you are welcome to attend any service you like!

In this phase, a number of restrictions are still in place. You may view the current guidelines for houses of worship at [coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2020/06/Houses-of-Worship-Guidance-Revised-6-14-20.pdf](https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2020/06/Houses-of-Worship-Guidance-Revised-6-14-20.pdf). Below is a summary of the restrictions as they pertain to us:

- We are required to post signage at each public entrance which states the following:
  - Do not enter if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive with COVID-19 in the past fourteen (14) days;
  - Individuals age thirteen (13) and up are required to wear a cloth face covering in accordance with the Thirteenth Modification;
  - At all times, individuals who are not part of the same household are expected to remain at least six (6) feet apart to the greatest extent possible and are encouraged to maintain greater physical distance whenever possible; and
  - Proper hand washing and frequent use of hand sanitizer is encouraged.
- We are permitted to conduct in-person services, but the size of the gathering can be no more than 60% of stated fire occupancy. For us, this means no more than 140 in attendance.
- All surfaces touched in the building must be cleaned and sanitized between services.
- Except for members of the same household, 6 feet social distancing must be maintained. Although it is still encouraged, children are no longer required to remain with their parent/guardian during the service. This means that we may resume Sunday school and nursery, with certain limitations.
- Social distancing must be maintained for those singing together that are not of the same household, and microphones cannot be shared.

- Hand sanitizing stations must be supplied at all entrances.
- Cloth face coverings must be worn at all times, except for the following: The person presiding over the service (pastor), the song leader while leading music, special singers, musicians, or other platform participants, are not required to wear a mask while speaking, singing, or playing, but must maintain a distance of 10 feet from others not of the same household and must wear a mask while in the congregation.
- The use of hymnbooks is discouraged. Single-use paper documents are encouraged and may be picked up from tables or baskets, but not handed out or re-used.
- Baptisms are permitted.
- Drive-in services do not constitute a gathering that must adhere to these rules, but if conducted:
  - All people must remain inside their vehicle at all times.
  - Vehicles must remain at least 6 feet from each other.
  - No exchange of materials can take place.

With these restrictions in mind, **beginning Wednesday, June 17**, we will begin the following schedule:

**Sunday in-person services are at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM.**

**Wednesday in-person services are at 7:00 PM.**

**Sunday school classes, with limitations, will resume at this time.** The following classes (according to students' promoted grade) are planned for our drive-in church family, with applicable guidelines in mind:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>Nursery</b> <i>Infant—1 Year</i>	Kim Carrow Bonnie Humphreys or Connie Hughes	Nursery
<b>Ages 2-3</b>	Bridget Raab Marissa Coppage	Room 24 <i>(2-3-Year-Old Room)</i>
<b>Age 4—Grade 2</b>	Alex Ramos Freny Ramos	Fellowship Hall
<b>Grades 3-5</b>	Aaron Curtis Karen Curtis	Room 34 <i>(4th Grade SS Room)</i>
<b>Grades 6-8</b>	Todd Hassler Angela Hassler	Room 36 <i>(7th-8th Grades SS Room)</i>
<b>Grades 9-12</b>	Jeremy McKay Bethany McKay	Room 38 <i>(9th-12th Grades SS Room)</i>
<b>Young Adults</b>	Mike Wheeler Jennifer Wheeler	Room 22 <i>(Young Adults SS Room)</i>
<b>Adults</b>	Pastor Moore Aubrey Cordrey	Auditorium

**There will still be no Bus Ministry at this time.**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 302-734-2410 or call my cell phone at 302-222-8326. I appreciate your flexibility through this time. Please continue to pray for America, and for wisdom as we strive to do the Lord's work in these days.

In Christ,

Pastor Moore

2 Cor. 5:15