

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 (Revised Tuesday, May 26, 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 the past 8 weeks, we have been limited to having only livestream services due to the governor's State of Emergency Declaration and stay-at-home order. Last week, Governor Carney announced that Delaware would be entering into Phase 1 of its reopening on June 1, 2020. In this phase, gatherings in general of up to 10 people are allowed once again. But on Monday, May 18, Governor Carney issued specific Phase 1 reopening guidelines that pertain to Houses of Worship and Places of Religious Expression. These guidelines permit churches to conduct in-person services once again, effective May 20, 2020, with certain restrictions. These guidelines were then updated on May 23, 2020. Below is a basic summary of the restrictions. You can find the full text of these restrictions at governor.delaware.gov/health-soe/ and at news.delaware.gov/2020/05/18/governor-carney-issues-guidance-for-churches-houses-of-worship/.

- We are required to post signage at each public entrance which states all of the following:
 - Do not enter if you have a cough, high fever, shortness of breath 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 to enter and remain inside (a cloth face covering is recommended but not required for children ages 2-12);
 - At all times, individuals who are not part of the same household should maximize physical distance from others and remain at least six (6) feet apart – handshaking, hugging, or kissing is discouraged;
 - 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 30% of stated fire occupancy requirements. For us, this means no more than 75 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. Children must remain with their parent/guardian at all times. This means that we may not have Sunday school or children's church in this phase.
- Choirs are not to be utilized for singing during services. Solos and duets are permitted, as long as social distancing can be maintained for those singing together that are not of the same household.

- Hand sanitizing stations must be supplied at all entrances.
- Cloth face coverings must be worn at all times, except for the following:
 - Song leader while leading music, special singers, or other platform participants, while remaining 10 feet from others.
 - The person presiding over the service (pastor) is not required to wear a mask, as long as he maintains a distance of 10 feet from others.
- Hymnbooks may not be used. Only single-use paper documents 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 9 feet from each other.
 - No exchange of materials can take place.

With these restrictions in mind, beginning Sunday, May 24, we will begin the following service time schedule.

There will be no Sunday school classes at this time.

There will be no Bus Ministry at this time.

The Sunday schedule will be as follows:

Sunday in-person services will be at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Since the in-person services are limited to 75, the following schedule must be followed in order to limit the number:

Sunday Morning – May 24, June 7, June 21 at 11:00 AM

Last name begins with A-K: Attend in-person service

Last name begins with L-Z: View livestream

Sunday Evening – May 24, June 7, June 21 at 6:00 PM

Last name begins with A-K: View livestream

Last name begins with L-Z: Attend in-person service

Sunday Morning – May 31, June 14, June 28 at 11:00 AM

Last name begins with L-Z: Attend in-person service

Last name begins with A-K: View livestream

Sunday Evening – May 31, June 14, June 28 at 6:00 PM

Last name begins with L-Z: View livestream

Last name begins with A-K: Attend in-person service

As of Friday, May 22, 2020, we are permitted to hold in-person services on more than one day of the week. With that in mind, we have planned the following Wednesday schedule in order to limit the number of attendees in a given service:

Wednesday Evening – May 27, June 10, June 24 at 7:00 PM

Last name begins with A-K: Attend in-person service

Last name begins with L-Z: View livestream

Wednesday Evening – June 3, June 17 at 7:00 PM

Last name begins with L-Z: Attend in-person service

Last name begins with A-K: View livestream

Jubilee Services – June 29-July 2 – TBD

If you have any questions about this schedule, 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 and look forward to seeing you all soon. 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