

When you are ready . . . Welcome Back!

(Updated 7-25-2020)

FBC Long Prairie has reopened the doors for Sunday morning worship together at 10:15 am. For consistency and additional set up needed for the livestream each week, 10:15 am will be our service time throughout the summer months. We are excited to welcome you back . . . when you are ready!

Should I come right away?

As with going to work, to the store, or visiting a friend or family member, we ask that you carefully consider if this is the right time for you to begin worshipping together in-person with others from our church family. If you are someone with high risk health issues, we ask you to continue to participate from home via the livestream option. And for the health and safety of others (and yourself), if you are sick, or feeling sick, we also ask that you stay home and join us over the internet via the livestream or recorded option. To help you evaluate your current health and the health of any family members you live with, please check out the **Health Screening** questions to ask yourself before you decide to come on Sunday. These are the same type of questions you would be asked at the clinic before a medical appointment.

What should I expect?

Expect a warm welcome - even if it is from behind a mask! Because of the extra precautions we are taking during the COVID-19 pandemic, expect that things will be different for a while when you decide to return to our in-person worship service. Watch for new signs & posters on the entry doors, in the foyer/entry area, and in the bathrooms, to remind you to:

- Cover Your Cough.
- Wash Your Hands.
- Wearing a Mask
- Give others their space by keeping at least 6 feet apart from those not in your household.
- Stay Home if you are sick or have been exposed recently to COVID-19.

Where will the service be held and what will the seating be like?

The in-person service will be held in our **main sanctuary with a capacity of 150**. Every other row will be available for seating. The rows in-between will be taped off - please do not use these rows, as they help create the 6 feet of physical distance we are asked to provide to help keep you and others healthy. For the time being, we ask that you only sit with your family household in a row. You may sit in a row with another person(s) as long as you are able to have at least 6 feet of distance in-between. If not, please choose a different row.

Is there a livestream option available?

YES! Each week we run a livestream of the morning service via our website and YouTube. You can also view the service at a later time on our YouTube channel (or connect to it on the church website).

What about masks?

As of July 25 (Saturday), according to Emergency Executive Order (20-81) from Gov. Walz face coverings are now required in indoor businesses and indoor public settings, which would include the First Baptist Church facility. The requirements would apply when using the facility with other people not in your own family household. Staff working alone in an office are not required to

wear a mask. If another person comes in - or staff meet together, masks are to be worn. Per the instructions in 20-81, those leading up front during a service can temporarily remove their masks when speaking, preaching or leading in worship and singing.

Children 5 years and younger are exempt from wearing masks, as are those with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. While we are required to post this information, we are not required to ask for proof or explanations from those who come if they are not wearing a mask. Thank you for your consideration of and grace with each other as you come to any in-person service or event at First Baptist.

What will the service be like?

Just like you have been seeing on the livestream since March, you can expect the following:

- Welcome and announcements (but just not going from row to row greeting one another)
- Worship through music and singing (a limited amount as we get started again)
- Weekly message from God's Word
- Communion - the first Sunday of the month, using a prepacked set of communion elements you will pick up in the foyer before you enter the sanctuary.
- Organized dismissal - as at a wedding or funeral, a designated volunteer will dismiss each row, starting from the back to the front. Please be courteous of others by waiting until your row is dismissed. This will help provide that extra physical space as we exit the sanctuary and church building to the parking lot.
- Once the service concludes, we ask that you exit to the outside and parking lot area where you can greet others, remembering to provide each other that 6 feet of space.
- An offering plate will be available just outside the sanctuary doors on a table in the foyer as you exit the service.

What else should I keep in mind for Sundays?

- The main bathrooms in the foyer will be available. All other bathrooms are closed.
- For the present time, the Nursery will be closed and not available.
- Coffee and fellowship time have been suspended for the time being.
- We ask that children stay with their parents throughout the worship service, and that you exit together to the parking lot area following the service.
- **Be gracious with one another**, as we navigate this journey together. Most of us have never experienced something like this before, so we will be learning as we go and will make adjustments as needed along the way.