

May 12, 2020

Dear Congregation,

It is my joy to inform you about the re-opening plans for Mount Vernon Baptist Church. This COVID-19 pandemic remains a major challenge for our country and our community. The disruption it has caused is historic in many ways. But we press on!

Phase One is the first stage of Mount Vernon returning to some sense of normalcy. The deacons and ministerial staff met on Monday night and designed this plan of action. It is not perfect – it is not what some folks hoped for – but it is a sound and reasonable approach to ensure a safe return for the most people.

We will resume our 10:30 Worship Service onsite this Sunday morning, May 17. We will abide by the recommended social distancing practices for seating in the worship center. Families are urged to sit together. Childcare will not be available during this Phase One. Spacing of 6 feet will be observed. In addition, we will have an overflow room set up in the Youth Center on the second floor of the Family Life Center.

Our deacons will direct you and assist you entering and exiting the Worship Center. They will be wearing masks for hygiene purposes and you may do so as well, if you so desire. Please park in front and on the sides of the Worship Center. We are asking that you refrain from handshaking, neck hugging, or other physical touch at this point. A big smile and wave will be our greeting in Phase One.

Sunday School classes are encouraged to continue meeting through Zoom or other social media platforms during Phase One. Sunday night and Wednesday night ministries and activities are postponed during Phase One.

In a few weeks the deacons and pastors will meet to reassess and make decisions about what a Phase Two will look like. Until then, you are asked to use your personal discretion about whether you will attend the worship service in person or continue to watch the live-stream on our website. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we navigate this challenge.

Sincerely in Christ,

John P. Gates