

Waxhaw Baptist Church  
8213 Old Waxhaw-Monroe Road  
Waxhaw, NC 28173  
704-843-4822

Dear family and friends of Waxhaw Baptist Church,

Over these last several months Waxhaw Baptist Church has shined in a dark, trying time. While the Church has not been able to gather because of this pandemic, the Church scattered has been doing an amazing work! Here are some examples of what has been happening while we have been apart:

- There have been numerous members in the church who sewed and shared masks for free when the need arose.
- Both members and friends of WBC checking on and praying for each other through phone calls, texts, or emails.
- The men and women who stepped out of their comfort zone in recording Sunday School lessons on Facebook or Zoom to help members stay connected.
- People helping others with essential grocery items or paper products.
- Neighbors sharing the gospel with neighbors.
- Community members and Church members sharing gift cards for those in need.
- The Jesse Jude Food Pantry serving the families of the community.
- Those who have shared their gifts and talents in helping services go live while the Church is scattered.
- Others who have provided meals for friends or family.
- Community members bringing groceries to WBC so we could help families with kids home from school.
- Donations to restaurants so they could provide free meals to front line workers.

God has been using His people behind the scenes since the beginning of this quarantine to reach out into our community to glorify Him! It has been humbling to see the unselfish efforts put forth by many of our members and friends in being the hands and feet of Christ.

Last Wednesday Governor Cooper initiated a modified phase II restriction. The leaders at WBC believe as witnesses of Jesus Christ our duty is to follow the authority of the governing bodies of the State [Rom 13; 1 Pet. 2]. We have followed these guidelines for the primary purpose of keeping the whole family of WBC safe. The civil authorities have had a difficult task and still do. We should seek to be part of the solution through cooperation and service to our communities as we relate to state and local officials responsible for implementing the White House plan. As of yet, there have been no restrictions on preaching the Gospel-which means our rights have not been violated nor oppressed. In fact, the Southern Baptist Convention and other major denominations have been voluntarily following the guidelines from national and state officials.

The leaders of WBC agree in being examples in these guidelines. If for some reason in the future our rights are violated, we will assess what we need to do at that time.

We realize it has been a long time since we have gathered as a body and look forward to regathering very soon. In saying this, we have put together a step-by-step plan to come back to corporate worship together. In reopening the church, we will follow the guidelines by the NIH and CDC in a modified form to ensure the best we can, the safety of all the members and friends at WBC.

Here is the plan to step forward into regathering corporately for WBC:

- **We encourage at-risk individuals and those with symptoms of illness to stay home**
  - These are high risk individuals with immune compromised conditions. A list of those at greater risk can be found on the CDC's website. **High Risk List**<sup>1</sup>
  - Those **with any of these symptoms**<sup>2</sup> are encouraged to stay home until several days after the symptoms subside.
  - At-risk individuals should stay home until phase III is initiated
  - Please join us online either on Facebook live or on YouTube [Waxhaw Baptist Church] or go to our website at **www.waxhawbaptist.org** and click the link in the upper right hand corner that says 'sermons' and it will give you links to the most recent sermons. One last option would be to give us your e-mail and we can link you to the online services.
- **The church will be implementing best sanitation practices**
  - There will be hand sanitizer available at the church entrance. It is encouraged that you use this upon entry and when leaving the Church.
  - There will be sanitizing between church services in all high use areas: the sanctuary, hallway, and restrooms.
  - We are encouraging people to wear masks in the service. If you do not have a mask, there will be some available upon entry.
  - The lyrics for the worship service will be put on the screen. The pew bibles and hymnals will not be available for use.
- **Follow the Signage**
  - Coming into the sanctuary there will be arrows on the floor and signage to guide you into the auditorium. Please follow all the directions to ensure the safety of others.
  - The seating arrangement will be marked off appropriately before the services. Please do not take down the tape dividing the pews or the tape closing off certain pews.
  - There will be people to help assist you and help you navigate through the services.
- **There will be no Sunday School, Nursery, or Children's Church available**
  - These will remain closed until further notice due to social distancing guidelines.
  - However, if a child needs to take a break from service, the parent can go outside, or go to a room in back if needed. There shall be no gathering of children or guests in a room. If this should happen, please notify one of the pastors or other people who are assisting so the room can be properly sanitized.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- The staff will inform the church when these ministries will be able to reopen in the future.
- All toys will be removed from the Nursery and Walker Talker rooms for now.
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- **Offering/Meet/Greet/Communion**
  - Locked offering boxes will be placed in the vestibule area instead of passing the offering plate. Thank you for your continued obedience in giving to the Lord.
  - As hard as it may be, please refrain from hugging or shaking hands as we gather back together. There will be no bulletins available during service times, nor will there be a meet and greet until further notice.
  - Communion will be administered through individual elements when the time comes to go to the Lord's table.
- **Wednesday Nights/ Sunday School/Youth/KFC**
  - At this time in the process, our Wednesday Night Bible studies, Sunday School classes, Youth, and Kids For Christ will continue to meet online.
  - We will update you with any changes concerning these ministries in the coming weeks.
- **Service Times and Date**
  - We have scheduled to regather on June 7, 2020.
  - There will be two services scheduled to allow for more social distancing
    - There will be an 8:45 am service and an 11:00 am service
    - Our plans are to allow 50 people in the service at a time
      - This includes staff and crew
      - Any unexpected visitors
      - Congregation
  - **We are asking everyone to call Joy on a weekly basis to sign up for which service you may want to attend. This will give us an idea of how many people to expect and if we need to add another service.**
  - If the need arises, to ensure the safety of our members and guests, we will have overflow in our fellowship hall.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 704-843-4822 or one of the Pastors. We are excited about coming back together to worship with the WBC family and her friends. Thank you for your patience, for loving others over yourself, and for your understanding during this phase we are following.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Chris

Pastor Adam

Andrew Bigham- Chair of the Deacons

Doug Fournier- Chair of the Church Council