

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Re-Opening Plan

Introduction

We are excited to announce our plans for resuming public worship services at FMBC. In the following pages, we have provided details regarding the schedule, policies, restrictions, and changes you will see as we resume our public gatherings.

We feel a stirring from God to prepare adequately and safely for the slow and safe return to worship. We have sought consultation with our Health and Congregational Nursing Ministry and our church officials in making this plan based on current Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State guidelines.

Note: This plan is a work in progress and is subject to change in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Safety Measures

We love each and every member of our church family and recognize your importance to this body of Christ followers. It is our desire to be in close fellowship with everyone as much as possible. Everyone is important and valued.

We want to note that individuals who have not received the Covid-19 vaccine and have underlying health concerns are still at a greater risk for contracting Covid-19.

We also would like to note that even though mask mandates and social distancing guidelines may be relaxed in many areas of the state we will continue to function utilizing mask and social distancing as we do not know the vaccination status of all our congregants.

Virtual options such as Facebook Live and Zoom will be offered for all in person church gatherings.

In person gathering is mainly for Sunday Morning Worship Service. All other church meetings and gatherings will remain virtual at this time. Special services such as revivals and other services will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by church leadership.

The following general guidelines have been developed to guide all church activities:

DO	DON'T
✓ Wear a mask (ages 3 and up)	➤ Shake hands
✓ Wash your hands before and after services	➤ Hug others
✓ Stay six feet from others	➤ Come if you are sick
✓ Cover coughs and sneezes	➤ Touch your face, nose, and mouth
✓ Use hand sanitizer frequently	➤ Leave trash in the sanctuary
✓ Be willing to conduct a self-assessment before coming to church and govern yourself accordingly.	➤ Let worry control you
✓ Stay home if you have COVID 19 or have had any contact with known COVID-19 confirmed case.	➤ Come to church if you are sick, have been diagnosed with COVID 19 or if you have been around someone who is sick or positive for COVID 19.

Social Distancing

Everyone will always maintain social distancing of six feet or more from the time we drive onto the property and exit our car until the time we get back into our cars after the service.

Signs will be posted around our meeting space reminding us of these precautionary measures and social distancing requirements. These instructions and reminders shall be observed by members and guests each time we gather until further notice.

Members are asked to wear a mask and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another. We ask that you bring your own mask. Masks have been purchased by Friendship

Missionary Baptist Church and are available for those who have forgotten to bring one. (This provision is not to encourage anyone to depend upon receiving a mask each time they arrive at church). **No one will be permitted into the sanctuary without a mask. Adults and children aged 3 and older will need masks.**

Additional Guidelines:

Ushers - With the help of our ushers, we will all be observing these social distancing policies:

1. Ushers will wear masks.
2. Ushers will wear gloves if passing out or collecting materials.
3. Ushers will seat attenders before the services. Families will sit together. There will be 3–4 empty seats (or a space of 6 feet) between families (right, left, front, back).
4. At the end of the services, ushers will dismiss attenders in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Ushers may need to direct people to a specific exit door. There will be no gatherings at doorways.
5. Secure receptacles will be available in the lobby for you to drop your offering, or you are encouraged to use online giving.
- 6. Attenders are encouraged to promptly return home and refrain from fellowshiping at the end of the service.**
7. We will not be distributing a service bulletin or printed outline. We will continue to email announcements to the church family.
8. No food will be shared at this time.

Greeters and Hospitality Teams:

1. No handshakes or hugs
2. Greeters will wear gloves.
3. Greeters will remind congregants to clean hands upon entry,
- 4. All hand sanitizer dispensers will be changed to touchless.**

Singing:

1. Choir - The Praise Team or soloist will be used for music until further notice

2. Singing by congregants- With a face mask covering nose and mouth at all times

Offering:

1. Congregants will be encouraged to continue to give online and via mail or
2. Congregants will be asked to drop off tithes and offerings as they enter church

Communion:

1. Communion will be picked up upon entry to the church.
2. Trash cans will be available at the sanctuary door for disposal on the way out of service.

Sunday School:

1. May consider virtual options including changing the Zoom call day/time or
2. May consider changing the Sunday Morning Worship Service time

Invitation/Altar Call:

1. At the end of the message, attenders will be encouraged to make decisions in their seat asked to move to the fellowship for further ministry in small groups observing social distancing.
2. After the services, prayers with people needing spiritual counsel will be made while observing social distancing guidelines.
3. Consider a prayer line open where people can pray privately with a minister.
4. Fellowshiping members in will continue safely- utilizing social distancing practices and without hand shaking.

Baptism – *is a high-risk activity and will be performed at the discretion of the Pastor using the following guidelines:*

1. Baptism will be scheduled one at a time and not in groups. Only one baptism should occur without changing the water in the pool.
2. Baptistry workers (Ministers and Deaconess) will wear face coverings, gloves, and protective eyeglasses, and will endeavor to maintain six feet of distance as much as possible.
3. People getting baptized will bring their own clothing.

Children's Ministry:

1. **Children's church and the nursery will not be open for physical attendance.**
2. Outside and virtual activities may be offered from time to time.
3. Virtual children's ministry activities are encouraged.

Sanitizing Facilities:

1. Chairs and tables are being sanitized before and after each service.
2. Immediately after each service, our team of volunteers will make sure that the entire auditorium is properly sanitized.
3. After each service, we will remove all trash and left-over personal items from the sanctuary.
4. Personal items will be collected and held temporarily. If you notice that you have left an item, please notify us immediately.
5. We are increasing ventilation as much as possible in the buildings.
6. Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
7. Sanitizer stations are cleaned and checked for functionality before and after each service.
8. Light switches are sanitized before and after every service.

Registration:

1. Attendees will be asked to register for service in advance using a digital service and/or phone calls.

Note: We will need to determine the number of people who can attend services, and someone will need to be named responsible for managing this process.