

# Welcome Back Begins SUNDAY, MAY 17!

Yesterday, Governor Edwards announced that Louisiana will move to Phase One Reopening beginning Friday, May 15. This means we can begin regathering this Sunday according to Phase One guidelines. Be sure to watch Beyond 901 Main on Friday on Facebook or YouTube, where I will explain more of what this will look like for us as a church.

**These are the highlights of our extensive plan which has been shared with the deacons and other leadership:**

1. Per government guidelines we encourage anyone with vulnerable conditions to stay home for the time being. Likewise, anyone with a fever or respiratory conditions should not attend.
2. For those who are not ready or able to return, live-streaming will remain available on all three online formats.
3. We will regather for worship only at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays.

## **What Will Worship Be Like?**

- **Sanctuary:** We are allowed 25% capacity in the sanctuary, which is approximately 250 people.
    - Social distancing will require that every other pew be closed and staggered seating be maintained in those which are open.
  - **Video Venue Options:** For over-flow, a hard-wired live simulcast of our service will be available in the fellowship hall, youth room, chapel, and 112.
    - These venues will be opened as needed in the order above.
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- Seating in these spaces will be set up in accordance with the governor's guidelines.
- A pastoral representative will be present in each venue to welcome people, receive the offering, and assist with any needs.
- Families with young children are encouraged to attend the fellowship hall venue where we will provide sanitized, additional activities at the tables for young children. Tables will be spaced for social distancing, and families will be encouraged to stay at their own tables. Further information will be provided by Kimberly Aguiard in an email this afternoon to all parents as well as on the children's ministry Facebook page.
- **What Will Be Different?**
  - There will be no nursery or Extended Session until social distancing guidelines are relaxed.
  - Worship guides will not be provided.
  - There will be no coffee service.
  - The choir will not remain in the choir loft due to social distancing, however, they will have a role in our services. Kevin Boles will be communicating plans with the worship choir.
  - Offering plates will not be passed. Greeters will hold offering plates at all exits of the sanctuary and other venues. Other giving options such as mail, on-line, and drop-off will remain available as always.

### **Will the Church Be Sanitized?**

- Please plan to wear a mask as these are strongly encouraged by the governor.
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- Numerous hand sanitizing stations will be provided around the church campus.
- Custodians will be rotating among the sanctuary and other venues to wipe down restrooms and frequently touched surfaces (such as doorknobs) after usage.

### **What Time Should I Arrive?**

- The Courtesy Team will open the doors to the sanctuary and other venue areas (starting with the activities building for access to the Fellowship Hall) and the Welcome Center as a pass-through at 9:30 a.m. This will allow you time to find a seat and make any adjustments due to social distancing requirements.

### **What about Sunday School?**

- Social distancing guidelines prevent us from being able to accommodate all of our Sunday School classes at the same time due to space and the inability to provide childcare. However, Thomas Martin will be communicating with our Sunday School leadership later today some other options for gathering in person.
- Harry Ingalls will continue providing a video lesson with one change. We will post the video at 6:00 a.m. on Sundays instead of 9:00 a.m. to allow people plenty of time to watch the study become coming to worship if they so choose.

I am excited to see many of our church members in person again. It will be different, but, then again, so have the last nine weeks. If you can begin joining

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us, we look forward to having you. If you are not yet able to come back, we understand and look forward to when you can do so.

For His Name's Sake!

Pastor Stewart

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