

The Elders at Southside welcome Gov. Abbott's announcement, opening up our economy and allowing for churches to begin assembling in-person. The Elders have decided that to be properly prepared, **Sunday, June 7th at 10:30 am** will be our first general assembly for worship. While we have absolute faith our God is our Protector, we also know there is an expectation that, to the extent possible, we will use the intellect He has given us to recognize and take steps to avoid those things that can harm us. We appreciate your patience and your gracious acceptance of the provisions described here, and we want you to know they have been put into place out of a preponderance of caution and concern for your safety.

We want to stress that all those who are in the State's defined "High Risk Categories" and others who live with someone in that group should continue to stay home and worship with us through Live Stream. In addition, there will be some of you who want to wait a little longer before gathering; we affirm your decision and appreciate your caution. While we will do our best to meet the state's guidelines for safe church assembly, there will still be some risk of exposure. We ask that all attendees refrain from our natural compulsion as Christians to shake hands or embrace and to observe the 6 foot distancing recommendation.

These efforts will mean that those of us who attend need to be prepared for some, what we hope are temporary, different ways of conducting our assembly.

First, while not required to do so, you are encouraged to wear a mask to our worship assembly. Think of wearing a mask as saying, "I want to help keep you safe!"

Second, we ask that everyone, no matter where you park, come through the front (East) entrance double doors. Before you come in, please disable the wi-fi feature on your cell phone or any portable device for the benefit of the Live Stream service. Next, we ask that you NOT congregate in the Foyer but head on into the Auditorium and find your seats. This process will help us maintain state guidelines for physical distancing. The church building has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized to include the floor carpet, the pew bench and backs, sound booth, podium, microphones, and door handles. While most of the hallways and classrooms WILL NOT be accessible, our restrooms on each side of the rear of the auditorium will be available for use. The doors to enter/exit the hallway leading to the restrooms will be propped open to avoid the need to touch them.

Third, as you enter the Foyer, we ask that everyone use the hand sanitizer that will be available near the entrance. There will be Greeters and Ushers wearing masks who will welcome you and direct you to self-contained communion sets you may pick up and hold

until the proper time in the service. You are encouraged to either print the bulletin at home or use the electronic copy on your device.

Fourth, we ask that families remain together before, during and after the service. You are asked to keep your children with you as you enter and exit the building. If you need to leave with a child during the service, the Nursery and infant room off the foyer will be available for single family use.

Fifth, there will be several changes to our normal worship routine:

- For the next several weeks, there will be no Bible Classes and the Nursery will not be attended.
- As mentioned earlier you may pick up a self-contained communion set so there will be no passing of plates during the service. If you have concerns about this method, you may pick up packs of traditional communion bread and, with commonly available grape juice, partake at home. Other than this, the observance of the Lord's Supper will be conducted as is usual.
- Along this same line there will be no passing of the plate for a collection. Instead there will be a box(es) in the Foyer into which you can drop your contribution. Please place cash in the envelopes provided in the Foyer before depositing it in the box. OF COURSE, you are welcome to continue either your mailed checks or digital donations. Your continued support during this challenging time has been amazing.
- There will be no hymnals nor pew Bibles on the pew racks; pencils and prayer request cards will be available for distribution during the invitation song.
- We are only using every other row of seating; those seats not to be used as well as the 6-foot center portion of all pews will be taped off, and you are asked to not sit in these areas.
- As the Live Stream will continue to be a heavily used way for many to worship, we will continue to do some things that were specifically designed to improve the quality and effectiveness of the stream. One of these is the presence of some equipment and other items not normally seen in the auditorium.

Sixth, you are welcome to bring your own bottled water with you for, at this point, we will not be serving coffee as the Fellowship Hall has NOT been sanitized, and the water fountains in the building should NOT be used. We ask that you discard any used containers in the Foyer trash cans as you exit the building to facilitate cleaning between services.

Seventh, the baptistry IS available as we pray that it is needed.

And **Eighth**, when the service concludes we will quickly be dismissed by rows (back to front) to exit; Ushers will be available to direct and assist you. When you are dismissed, please head directly out the double doors in the Foyer. We are doing this to help us respect the state's recommended physical distancing guidelines for church gatherings. Please do not leave any personal items in the pew (books, Bibles, wraps, blankets, or trash). Once outside, we request that you observe a minimum of 6-feet

distancing with other families if you wish to visit; failure to observe proper distancing may negate all other precautions that have been taken.