

June 11, 2020

Dear FBC family,

The FBC Covid-19 Task Force has been meeting and discussing plans to reopen our church building for worship. To inform our decisions, we have considered numerous resources including the guidelines and recommendations distributed by the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health, information made available from our insurer, and conversations with many other ministers and denominational partners. We want to update you on our thoughts at this point and ask for your input prior to moving forward.

The general consensus is to reopen in measured phases. These phases would first include scaled back in-person worship and later in the summer potentially adding small group classes and activities in the building.

While the specific date to reopen has not been set, the decision will be based on a decline in local COVID-19 cases and a low risk of infection growth rate overall over a two-week period prior to the target date. Local spikes in infection rates and trends in the Rome area will be monitored and worship plans may change in response to the changing conditions.

We know that worship will be different when we reopen. A few changes to be initiated will include, but are not limited to:

Preparing the sanctuary for reopening by:

- thoroughly disinfecting the sanctuary before each service
- providing hand sanitizer stations
- removing all Bibles, hymnals, pens, and seat cushions
- limiting access to restrooms
- establishing a one way traffic pattern for entering and exiting the building and seating people front to back as people arrive
- limiting access to other areas of the building

Modifying our worship service by:

- limiting the number of people in worship
- eliminating congregational hymn singing due to singers being classified as "super spreaders"
- limiting handouts
- implementing a new method for collecting tithes and offerings

- passing the peace without contact
- no childcare provided--all children will sit with parents

Asking all worshippers to:

- wear face masks (masks will be provided for those who do not have one)
- sit together as family units to maximize the amount of space utilized in the sanctuary
- maintain a six foot social distancing space between families
- refrain from shaking hands
- worship remotely if they are ill, have underlying health concerns, or have been exposed to coronavirus

Before moving towards our next steps, we would like to hear from you. We would greatly appreciate your input to help guide our decisions. **Please respond to this brief survey so that we may gauge how you are feeling:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VBVXJKB>

Faithfully,

FBC Covid-19 Task Force

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