

RETURNING TO CHURCH PLAN & GUIDELINES



A Word from Pastor Hank

Church family,

We are thrilled to take steps toward regathering. Beginning on June 28, you will have the option to join us in person for our 11:00 AM service. Needfully, this will require us to be careful and flexible.

Our goal is to facilitate regathering in a safe and compliant way, and to make our services as “touchless” as possible. We have tried to make these guidelines simple, asking you to manage your own risk and to express care and concern for others. We simply ask you to regather in person **only when you are comfortable doing so.**

We love you and look forward to worshipping with you, either in person or online. We pray diligently that this hardship will pass soon and that you and your family will stay safe and healthy.

Pastor Hank and Allison

Part 1 — Worship Options: Schedule and Details

Sundays @ 11:00 AM

Currently, Governor Cuomo is allowing 25% building capacity. Our building capacity is 400, so we will accommodate up to 100 people for the 11:00 service.

- Children and teens should sit with their parents.
- Seating will be designated for family groups.
- Childcare will not be provided until further notice.
- Sunday attendance will flow through online reservations.

Adult Crew

Throughout the summer, we will have one crew that will be led by Pastor Hank on Thursdays @ 7:00 PM. It will consist of Bible study, a video, and discussion time. This Connect Crew will remain online only for the time being. To join this summer crew, sign up online at: <https://www.internationalbaptistsb.org/connect-crews/>.

Teen Crew

Teen Crew will continue on Fridays @7:00 PM. To join this crew, sign up online at: <https://www.internationalbaptistsb.org/connect-crews/>.

Part 2 — Worship Preparations: Sanitization of Facilities

In maintaining safety, we will take advice and follow the criteria set forth by our local officials.

Adjustments Made for Your Safety

Our goal is to make service attendance as “touchless” as possible.

- The entire facility is carefully cleaned on a weekly basis.
- Exterior and worship center doors will be propped open.
- Airflow will be consistent throughout the building.
- All trash can lids will be removed.
- Water fountain will be turned off. Bottled water will be available.
- All door handles and surfaces in bathrooms and common areas will be cleaned before and after services.
- Only one person/family will be allowed in a bathroom at a time.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance to the building and throughout.

Part 3 — Social Distancing and Safety

Before You Attend

- Please stay home if you or anyone in your family is showing symptoms of illness.
- Temperature will be taken by a non-touch thermometer of all attendees entering the building.
- Any person with a temperature of 100.4 or greater, will not be permitted to enter the building.

Entering the Building

- Hot coffee and food service will not be available. Bottled water will be available.
- Sermon outlines will be placed on seats.
- Masks are recommended and we expect these to be recommended for quite some time. Staff and volunteers will be required to wear a mask, and we will make them available for attenders as well. We recommend all attendees wear masks especially when singing or when physical distance may be compromised.
- Exterior doors will be propped open, and hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances.

Inside the Worship Center

- Rows will be separated 6ft apart between each family unit.
- Offering plates will not be passed. We ask you to continue giving online, or you may give in the giving box as you leave.
- Temporarily, we ask you to refrain from physical contact with those outside your family. Air hugs are recommended.

Dismissal

- During dismissal, please maintain social distancing and avoid congregating near doors and aisles. Please fellowship outside while maintaining social distancing.
- Guest gift bags will be available at the connect corner, but there will be no volunteer handing them out.

Part 4 — Worship Safely: Seniors and the Immunocompromised

It is safest for seniors and the immunocompromised to avoid crowds for now. Our governing leaders strongly recommend that you continue engaging online for the time being.

Who Is At Risk?

Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People with underlying medical conditions

Medical conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Chronic lung disease or asthma
- Heart conditions
- Diabetes
- Immunocompromised

If we become aware that someone who has attended a service becomes ill, we will follow these procedures:

- We will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed.
- Any areas we determine the confirmed COVID-19 person visited will be sanitized carefully and thoroughly.
- The congregation will be notified immediately.

Conclusion

Thank you for understanding the need for these guidelines. As we begin regathering, we each assume a certain level of risk and responsibility. **Please only assume that risk when you are comfortable doing so in relation to your personal vulnerability.** Please help us protect others by embracing these guidelines responsibly.

While enhanced safety measures are being taken at our church, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the CDC, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting our church, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.