

Immanuel Baptist Church Re-opening Plan **Rev. Asher Panton | April 2021**

This past week, our deacons unanimously voted to resume our in-person worship services. Our first Sunday with the option of gathering in-person will be **Sunday, April 25th at 11am.**

We understand that this may not be the safest option for many of you reading this letter, and for that reason, we will continue to offer an online worship option through Facebook, YouTube, and our Website every Sunday at 11am. If you have any health concerns, or reasons to believe you are at a higher symptomatic risk of COVID-19, we ask that you continue to join us online. Our priority is and will continue to be the health and safety of our church family. We also encourage those in our church family to seek ways to get the COVID-19 vaccination. I will be able to get my second vaccination shot on April 7th. I will be fully vaccinated by the time we regather on Sunday, April 25th.

With that said, here are some things to know about our re-opening process. We will release an updated informative email and video as we approach our target date.

- As we begin this re-opening process, there will no in person Sunday School or childcare at this time. Pat Dunn's Sunday School class will continue to meet on Zoom
- Our Wednesday night prayer and fellowship will continue to meet online at 7pm.
- Our church will hold one worship service on Sundays at 11am

How will we enter worship in person?

- All attendees will be required to have their temperature taken with a digital thermal thermometer outside the outdoor double doors of the Sanctuary.
- Anyone with temperature above 99.9 degrees, those who are experiencing flu like symptoms, or those who have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days will be asked to join us online.
- All attendees will be asked to use the automatic hand sanitizing station at the front of the church as they enter.
- All attendees will be asked to wear a mask during the full duration of the service. A mask will be provided to those who are in need of one.
- All attendees are asked to enter and exit the double doors to the Sanctuary entrance only. All other entrances will be off limits on Sundays.

What safety measures will be taken inside the sanctuary?

- We will be blocking off the front four pew rows of the sanctuary.
- All pew cushions, hymnals, and Bibles will be in storage for the time being.
- All pew rows will be sanitized properly prior to service.
- We will be roping off every other pew to create the social distancing mandate of 6'.
- The ushers will seat everyone from the front to the back upon arrival, and will escort attendees to exit from the back to front upon exiting.

What will a socially distanced in-person worship service look like?

- We will not have any public singing due to the risk of spreading germs through the air.
- The worship team, singers, and musicians will lead music, hymns, and songs socially distanced on the platform.
- All staff and worship participants will remain masked during the service, unless leading from the pulpit or platform.
- I will preach from the pulpit unmasked for clarity purposes.
- A locked offering box will be located at the entrance of the sanctuary as we will not be passing the offering plate at this time.

As we move forward into this next phase, I ask that we all remain patient. We will work together to both re-open and worship safely. As more questions arise, we will address those as needed. If the safety environment of the virus drastically changes before April 25th, our deacons will meet again on April 18th to re-assess if needed.

We look forward to worshipping with you all!

Grace and Peace,

Asher

Rev. Asher J. Panton

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