

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH PROTOCOLS
FOR RE-STARTING SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICES
(Due to Covid-19 Pandemic)

These Protocols (the way we conduct ourselves) have been developed in light of the most current governmental health directives and after many prayerful considerations of the Grace Baptist Church Reopening Planning Team. Accomplishing comfortable corporate worship in a safe and Covid-19 free environment is the goal of these protocols.

Grace Baptist Church will continue streaming the Worship Services and Bible Study Ministries for all who will not come to the building, because of pre-existing health and/or other limitations; or who simply do not feel comfortable/safe attending in person during these Covid-19 times.

Note: *Our church facilities will receive the first of regularly scheduled Electrostatic Cleanings by a Commercial Building Maintenance Company (City Wide Maintenance [gocitywide.com]) before the first scheduled (June 7) in addition to the enhanced custodial cleanings described in Protocol 17.*

The Main doors of the Church will open for seating at 10:40 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. service. If you arrive earlier, please stay in your vehicle until at least 10:40 a.m. Ushers/Greeters, Security Teams, Monitors and Ministers need time to be in place before the doors open to accomplish the necessary safeguards described in these protocols.

1. Only the Main doors of the Church and Sanctuary will be accessible for entering and exiting. All other doors and entrances will be locked to decrease potential contamination. Please do not attempt to use the other doors of the Sanctuary during these Covid-19 times, so as to assist us in maintaining required social distancing.
2. Those who have symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or feel ill for any reason, should not come to the services. **Please stay home** and worship with us through the streamed services. If you have any Covid-19 symptoms, you should self-quarantine at home and contact a healthcare provider or the health department.
3. All members and guests, two years old and over, should wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth. If you come to the building without a mask, we will provide a mask.
4. The Ushers and Greeters will use a spray bottle to spray everyone's hands (hands-free dispensing). During these times hand sanitizing units will be available at the entrance, the restroom nearest the sanctuary.

5. All water fountains will be out of service during these unique times.
6. All **Nursery and Youth ministries** that normally would operate during the times of our worship services **are postponed until further notice**. Note: The Sunday School classes and Youth ministries that have been meeting via group media services will continue.
7. The Church and Sanctuary doors will be propped open by properly masked and gloved Ushers and Greeters to avoid having to handle doors (if the weather permits). If the weather does not allow the doors to propped open, please stand at a proper distance from the Ushers and Greeters while they open the doors for you.
8. Announcements will be made from the pulpits or on the projector screens. We will not pass out bulletins as has been our custom.
9. When you enter the building, please go straight into the sanctuary (after being masked and having hands sprayed). Avoid at all times, congregating in areas where social distancing may not be possible.
10. Sanctuary spacing will have been previously determined and approved by the Ushers. Please follow instructions on entering, being seated and exiting the sanctuary. Please do not remove chains/ropes used to block-off certain areas. Distancing for reasons of safety for every attendee is the goal. You may be seated in an area that would ordinarily not be your preference. Please maintain a positive attitude with respect to our goals and seating efforts.
11. Seating should be from the front to the rear with appropriate spacing having been previously determined, to maintain approved distancing. Families must sit together. Every effort is to be made to avoid having people (other than families), sitting or walking in close contact with one another during the worship service, entering or exiting. If you are seated in the middle of a pew, please try to avoid moving past others seated on the ends of pews. Make every effort to stay seated until the service ends. Please mask if you must move about.
12. Overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall will also have appropriate spacing. Please follow Ushers direction with respect to social distanced seating. **Exiting the Fellowship Hall will be by the Ramp exit only.**
13. Offering stations where you can drop your offerings upon entering the church will be provided inside the Sanctuary doors. Please have your tithes and offerings available to drop

off when you enter for service. We will not pass a plate for offerings as has been our custom in the past.

14. Greet each other with a wave, air hug or some other acknowledgment, so as to maintain proper social distancing. Please respect the safety of others and avoid the temptation to hug or elbow bump, etc., that would bring you inside of a six foot distance. Remember, the Corona Virus is primarily spread by droplets propelled by talking, coughing, sneezing and even singing, so please wear a mask to protect others while moving from place to place.
15. Restroom use will be limited by social distancing guidelines. Please follow the monitors instructions for going to the restrooms because our hallways are narrow. If you must use the restroom, please wait your turn. **Make every effort to use the restrooms at home prior to coming to the church.** Hand sanitizers will be available in the restrooms. Please try to avoid using your bare hands on the door handles and push plates on the restroom doors.
16. Communion packs will be available for pick up **upon entering** on first Sundays. There will be no distribution of communion packets as has been our custom. In the event that you forget to pick up a communion packet, please get the attention of an Usher so that they can bring one to you.
17. Sanctuary cleaning will have been accomplished according to custodial protocols (ultra-violet lights, disinfecting and wiping of all microphones, headphones, computers, laptops, stair hand-rails, doorknobs, light switches, pews, etc.), before and after each service.
18. Microphones will not be shared and spacing maintained for those ministering. Each person needing a microphone will have one assigned to them only for that service, and they are not to share it. The microphones will have detailed cleaning before and after each service.
19. We will not use hymnals (for sanitary reasons). Song lyrics will be provided on the projector screen when needed.
20. The Praise Team and Special Music Ministries **will be** in operation for services, but the Choirs **will not be** in operation until further notice.
21. Exiting at the conclusion of service will be announced from the pulpit, dismissing from the rear to front. Again, every effort is to be made to avoid having people walking in close contact with one another. The parking lot for the time being, should not be used for additional fellowship unless masks and social distancing is observed.

22. Please observe and obey all posted information on doors, pews and otherwise.

Notwithstanding all the changes caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, please make every effort to be positive and cooperative. Remember, everyone is inconvenienced by this effort to Restart our worship service. By God's grace and everybody's cooperation, these efforts will result in meaningful worship and complete safety for everyone.

Joyfully submitted,
GBC Reopening Planning Team,
Dr. Aaron E. Lavender, Senior Pastor