



RETURNING TO OUR SANCTUARY

The First Baptist Church, Henderson, NC

Congregational Information

With the state guidance changing, decreasing numbers of COVID 19 cases, and information regarding vaccination effectiveness and distribution becoming clearer, we will be opening up the sanctuary for worship starting March 21st.

For the health and safety of everyone who decides to attend, we will continue to follow the protocols that our COVID Task Force has developed. Please understand that our guidelines are not intended to make things more difficult. They come from a deep Biblical and theological understanding that our first responsibility in life is to love God, and right behind that to love one another. The measures we are undertaking are our way of loving and safeguarding one another.

We should heed the words of scripture. Philippians 2:4-5a says, “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...” And in I Corinthians 16:13-14 we read, “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

In order to maintain social distancing we will have a maximum capacity of approximately 90 people in the sanctuary initially. All congregants will enter through the bell tower entrance and we will exit through the narthex. Face coverings will be required while on church property. Please keep in mind that we are wearing masks not necessarily for ourselves but primarily to protect others. We know that worship still won't quite be the same just as so many other things during this pandemic are and have been different. It will be outstanding to get back to corporate worship that we cherish!

Please read this information carefully and contact us if you still have questions. We look forward to seeing you all in the sanctuary.

What should I know before I plan to attend?

- There will be a registration link available (or you may call the church office) two weeks prior to each service so we can plan for your arrival. Space will be limited to approximately 90 people.
- Please arrive no earlier than 10:40 and no later than 10:55 to allow for check-in of all attendees
- No childcare will be available
- Orders of worship will be available online by the end of week if you would rather view on your smart device or print from home. Printed copies will also be available.
- Based on current guidance and consultation with health care professionals, we will resume congregational singing and spoken responses while masked.

What can I expect when I arrive?

- Enter via the ramp at the bell tower entrance. The elevator entrance will be available if needed, please let the office know ahead of time so we can make proper arrangements.
- Hand sanitizer and disposable masks will be available at the entrance.
- Masks that cover the nose and mouth will be required and must be worn at all times when on church property.
- Masks should be worn even if you have been vaccinated. We still do not know if vaccination completely prevents spread.
- Greeters will check you in by checking temperatures and asking a series of questions. Ushers will escort you and your immediate family group to designated seating assuring adequate social distancing. You will be dismissed by pews at the end of the service.
- We know everyone wants to shake a hand or get a hug, but we ask that we maintain our six feet of social distance space.
- Restrooms behind the chancel and underneath the narthex will be reserved for urgent needs only.
- Offering plates will not be passed but offering receptacles will be at the entrance. We encourage you to make your offering as you enter so that they may be gathered and blessed as an act of worship. We will also have an offering plate in the narthex as you exit.

Should you come?

- Not if you are running a fever over 100 degrees
- Not if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
- Not if you are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19. Consult CDC website or a health care professional for guidance.
- Probably not if you are at high risk or have other illness that could be exacerbated by COVID-19
- Probably not if you are responsible for the immediate care of someone else who is at high risk of complications from COVID-19

Our service will continue to be live-streamed, broadcast via WIZS, and on Spectrum 24 (one week delay). Services are also available at any time in the Service Videos section of our website (under the worship tab).

The COVID-19 Task Force

Mary Austell, Ruxton Bobbitt, Julia Falkner, Bert Long, and Ray Pegram, Jr.