

Guiding Principles for Reopening

- Our plan to reopen has God's glory for its ultimate aim (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Our plan seeks to lead our congregation in the most helpful way, including spiritually, physically, and mentally (Heb. 13:8; Isa. 40:11; 42:3, cf. Matt. 12:20)
- Our plan desires to observe, as much as possible without disobeying God, the recommendations and regulations as set forth by local and federal government (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-14; cf. Acts 5:29)
- Our plan desires to display the preeminent characteristic of a disciple of Christ, charity, in all we do (1 Cor. 13:4-7, 13; John 13:35)
- Our plan desires to accommodate individuals with different liberties, always seeking "for peace and the building up of one another." (Romans 14:1-23, cf. 19)

Plans for Reopening

Our plans for reopening are tentative. If the COVID-19 situation should worsen, we will adjust according to the recommendations by the CDC, local and federal government, and other health organizations. However, this plan for reopening seeks to provide a draft of what reopening will look like for Warrior Creek Baptist Church.

First Phase for Reopening

The first phase for reopening will be to reopen the sanctuary (or fellowship hall) for cooperative worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00. The following rules will be observed by all in attendance:

Considerations Prior to Assembling:

- Educate one's self regarding the spread and prevention of COVID-19.¹ These include: social distancing of at least 6 feet, washing hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching one's nose, eyes, and mouth, covering one's mouth if coughing or sneezing with one's elbow or tissue.

¹ CDC, "How to Protect Yourself & Others," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>, accessed 5 June 2020. Copies can be available upon request.

- Any congregant displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 should remain at home, seek the appropriate medical assistance, and limit social interactions with other members.²
- Anyone who has had physical or close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 should self-quarantine and monitor one's self for 14 days after the last day one was in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19.³
- Individuals who are considered "higher risk" for COVID-19 should consider remaining home and watching services via Facebook Live or remaining in vehicles and listening to the service via radio station 94.3^{FM}.⁴

Preparations Made in Sanctuary (or Fellowship Hall)

- The main entrance will be open and remain open for the duration of the service in order to minimize contact with door handles.
- All surfaces will be cleaned in accordance with the recommendations offered by the CDC prior to and after each service.⁵
- All offering plates and other worship materials will be removed from the sanctuary in order to minimize physical contact. Hymnals will be available on chairs/pews. Congregants are encouraged to sit in the same seats each week.⁶

² Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea; see CDC, "Symptoms of Coronavirus," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>, accessed 5 June 2020.

³ South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, "Frequently Asked Questions (COVID-19)," *Infectious Diseases*, <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/frequently-asked-questions-covid-19>, accessed 5 June 2020.

⁴ CDC, "People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>, accessed 5 June 2020.

⁵ CDC, "Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>, accessed 5 June 2020.

⁶ CDC, "Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith," *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>, accessed 5 June 2020; for the survival rate on paper and cardboard surfaces, see: WedMD, "How Long Does the

- Areas of the campus that will not be open will be marked off in order to prevent additional contact.⁷
- An offering box will be placed in the church foyer (or near related entrance) to reduce physical contact. When placing offerings into offering box, please be mindful of social distancing guidelines.
- Pews/chairs will be blocked off in order to help maintain social distancing in the sanctuary.⁸ Please do not disturb these pews/chairs.

Second Phase for Reopening

The second phase for reopening will be to reopen the sanctuary (or fellowship hall) for cooperate worship on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. The following rules will be observed by all in attendance:

- See *“Considerations Prior to Assembling”* which will apply to the second phase for reopening.

Preparations Made in Sanctuary (or Fellowship Hall)

- The main entrance will be open and remain open for the duration of the service in order to minimize contact with door handles.
- All surfaces will be cleaned in accordance with the recommendations offered by the CDC prior to and after each service.⁹
- All offering plates and other worship materials will be removed from the sanctuary in order to minimize physical contact. Hymnals will be available on chairs/pews.

Coronavirus Live on Surfaces?” *WedMD*, <https://www.webmd.com/lung/how-long-covid-19-lives-on-surfaces>, accessed 8 June 2020, article reviewed by Brunilda Nazario, MD.

⁷ Family Research Council, “Guidelines for Reopening Your Church,” *Family Research Council*, <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF20D30.pdf>, accessed 5 June 2020.

⁸ Ken Braddy, “48 Questions to Ask Before You Reopen Your Church,” *KenBraddy.com*, 18 and 25 April 2020.

⁹ CDC, “Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes,” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>, accessed 5 June 2020.

Congregants are encouraged to sit in the same seats each week.¹⁰

- Areas of the campus that will not be open will be marked off in order to prevent additional contact.¹¹
- An offering box will be placed in the church foyer (or near related entrance) to reduce physical contact. When placing offerings into offering box, please be mindful of social distancing guidelines.
- Pews/chairs will be blocked off in order to help maintain social distancing in the sanctuary.¹² Please do not disturb these pews/chairs.

Third Phase for Reopening

The third phase for reopening will be to reopen Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings at 10:00. The following rules will be observed by all in attendance:

- See “*Considerations Prior to Assembling*” which will apply to the second phase for reopening.
- Classes will meet in open areas (such as fellowship hall, sanctuary, etc.)
- At all times, social distancing will be observed, in addition to proper hygiene
- Sunday school materials will be placed in room and members are encouraged to take these home as their own copies

¹⁰ CDC, “Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith,” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>, accessed 5 June 2020; for the survival rate on paper and cardboard surfaces, see: WebMD, “How Long Does the Coronavirus Live on Surfaces?” *WebMD*, <https://www.webmd.com/lung/how-long-covid-19-lives-on-surfaces>, accessed 8 June 2020, article reviewed by Brunilda Nazario, MD.

¹¹ Family Research Council, “Guidelines for Reopening Your Church,” *Family Research Council*, <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF20D30.pdf>, accessed 5 June 2020.

¹² Ken Braddy, “48 Questions to Ask Before You Reopen Your Church,” *KenBraddy.com*, 18 and 25 April 2020.

Fourth Phase for Reopening

The fourth phase for reopening will be to reopen the nursery for Sunday School and cooperate worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 and 11:00 respectively. The following rules will be observed by all nursery volunteers and parents/guardians:

- See “*Considerations Prior to Assembling*” which will apply to the second phase for reopening.
- Volunteers should consult, familiarize themselves, and utilize the resource provided by the CDC¹³
- Volunteers, in conjunction with WCBC janitorial staff, will maintain cleaning routines in accordance with the CDC recommendations¹⁴
- Parents should observe “*Considerations Prior to Assembling*” for themselves, any individuals living in the home (or who frequently visit), and their children

Response to Positive COVID-19 Individual

In the event that a member or guest tests positive for COVID-19, the following steps will be taken in response:

- Should the member or guest display symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus, they will be asked to return home or to go to a medical facility.¹⁵
- The pastor and/or deacons will contact our local health officials “while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or other applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.”¹⁶
- Any members of guests present will be notified and will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days while monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.
- The campus will be closed for 14 day, during which time cleaning will be conducted as recommended by the CDC.

¹³ CDC, “Talking with Children About Coronavirus Disease 2019,” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>, accessed 8 June 2020.

¹⁴ See footnote 5.

¹⁵ These steps can be found in CDC, “Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith,” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>, accessed 29 June 2020.

¹⁶ Ibid.