

Dear Members of FCC,

The Reopening of the Church Taskforce has been meeting for a month, at the request of the Board, to decide when and how to best reopen the church for worship and activities. We have read several articles and watched a webinar to learn from experts about how we can keep safe when it is time to reopen. We are far from being out of the woods, and circumstances can change quickly, and we may need to readjust. However, we are seeing some glimmer of hope and are praying that we can safely reopen late June.

Essentially there are 3 phases for reopening. The first phase is what we have been doing the past three months; a handful of people in the sanctuary leading worship and broadcast on Facebook Live.

### **The second phase will hopefully begin on June 21**

The following represents the changes we will be making for **phase two**, as suggested by the taskforce.

- Worship services will be held in Mayes Fellowship Hall, **with a limit of 38 people in the building.**
- A welcome center will be set up in the parking lot next to the entrance to the fellowship hall. Names will be registered in the event people need to be notified that a contagious individual was present.
- Temperatures will be checked with an infrared device, hands will be sanitized, and masks will be provided if you do not have one.
- Safe social distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Bathrooms will not be available.
- There will be no congregational singing and no call and response during the call to worship.
- There will be no nursery or Sunday School.
- Prepackaged communion will be used and can be picked up when entering, and offerings can also be left in a box. There will be no passing of trays.
- There will not be a church bulletin passed out. You can print one from home, and we are attempting to project announcements and a worship outline on a screen or monitor.
- We will continue to broadcast worship on Facebook Live.
- The office will reopen June 2. Please practice safe distancing and wear a mask when talking with Linda T or myself.

- If you do not feel comfortable returning to worship at this time, we completely understand. In fact, if you are in a high risk group, we encourage you to stay home and follow us on FB Live.

The primary reason for using the Fellowship Hall was because it is easier to sanitize after each service. Plastic and metal are easier to disinfect than wood, hymnals, Bibles, and pew cushions.

**Phase three will begin when it is safe to return to “normal”.** That decision will be driven by the available data, so there is no set date

Please continue to pray for our congregation as we strive to be the body of Christ in our community. Pray for the Taskforce, and please express your gratitude to them. They are Chair Charlie Brown, Tisha Williams, Laurie McAtee, Rick Carver, and ex-officio members, Phillip Britt and me.

I am so proud of our church. I have witnessed many of you wearing your masks in public, others going out of their way to show kindness to others, and a spirit of unity made strong by your genuine love for each other and our community.

I firmly believe that God can take this horrible pandemic and create new ways for us to reach out and serve our community. When we draw closer to Christ, our faith is strengthened, and when we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, our own spirits can be renewed and refreshed.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Michael Malone

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”—Philippians 4:6–7*