



Dear Church Family,

After listening to the governor's remarks on Monday, April 27, the ministers of College Heights, along with the guidance of Ronda Dillard, have made the decision to not meet at church for at least two more weeks through May 13. The recommendation from the governor is that people who are over 65 years old or have underlying health issues continue to stay home. That defines the hyper-majority of our church. Another recommendation from the Attorney General suggests that churches conduct as many services as possible remotely. Given these two recommendations, our current plan is to postpone meeting in-person until at least May 17. For the remainder of this letter, I will try to answer some of your questions.

What are other churches doing?

The majority of churches I have spoken with are continuing to meet online only due to the concerns I mentioned above. Some are even waiting until June to meet. All of us want to err on the side of caution. We will never know if we are too cautious, but we will know if we started meeting too soon.

What will church look like when we meet again?

When we return, hopefully on May 17, we will institute Phase 1 of reopening the church building. Phase 1 will be a Sunday Morning Worship service only. There will be several elements of coming to church that will look different. You will be strongly encouraged to wear masks while you are at church. If you do not have one, we plan to have one available for you. We are still discussing the potential of temperature checks when entering the building. We will not be shaking hands or hugging. We will not be passing the offering plate. Hymnals will be removed, and bulletins will not be available. There will be people who will remind you of social distancing should you be too close to someone else. We will designate appropriate seating areas. We may even have ushers to guide you on where to sit, so that we can have the maximum amount of people in the sanctuary while also being safe. There will be no childcare. We will have a proper way to exit the building to not have cross-traffic. If we reach the new capacity of the sanctuary, then there will be overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall with Facebook Live being streamed. It will be a new normal for a while. Please be flexible in your attitude when someone asks you to do something. We want our return to services to be a time of celebration, not a time of anger and hostility toward one another.

One other note: we will continue to livestream our services. The camera will be focused on the platform, but there is a chance you will be on camera. If you have any privacy concerns, please let an usher know when you arrive, and you will be seated in a place where the camera does not see.

What if I'm not comfortable coming to church yet?

Don't come. We will continue to offer Facebook Live as an option to join in worship. If you fit a high-risk category, I might even encourage you to use the digital worship opportunity for longer than others.

(more on back)

**What if I don't feel well?**

DON'T COME. We will be screening for symptoms at the door. If you are found to have any symptom related to COVID-19, you WILL NOT be allowed to enter the church. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but this will be strongly enforced. "I just have allergies" will not be an excuse.

If Phase 1 is Sunday Morning Worship only, when do we get to have Bible Study (Sunday School) and other activities?

Our entire plan is a five phase plan. Our hope is to implement these phases in two week increments. This calendar of events is based on the expectation that the outlook in our area continues to get better. Phase 2 would be Sunday and Wednesday Night services (no children/youth yet). Phase 3 would be Sunday School for Adults. Phase 4 would be Children and Youth Activities. Phase 5 would be fellowship events. The hope is we can be "back to normal" (still with some social distancing) by the time school starts in August.

This plan could be altered at any time based on the best data and medical advice we have. There might be opportunities for outside events for small groups of church members to see each other. This will be under consideration, but no event is scheduled at this time.

How are you cleaning the church and preparing the church to make sure it is safe?

The entire church will be wiped down, sprayed down, etc. between each time we meet. There will be hand sanitizer at every entrance. You will be encouraged to wear masks. All volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves. All procedures that local businesses are using, we will use as well to make sure the building is safe to use.

Are you available if I have more questions?

Yes. Please call me or email me with any questions. The church office is 817-645-6621 and my email address is jbreslaw@chbccleburne.org

I hope all of you realize that while we want to meet together, it is not essential we meet together in order to be the church. This body of believers is much more than a church building and being in the same place. We are the church whether we are in the sanctuary at 11 am on Sunday or not. I pray there are no setbacks, and we are able to meet on May 17. May God continue to bless you and keep you during this time of physical isolation.

Your Pastor,

Josh Breslaw