

Walking through what regathering will look like at Farmdale

Brothers and Sisters,

We plan to begin meeting together again this Wednesday night for prayer meeting (6:30 PM) and two services on Sunday (9 AM and 11 AM). I am looking forward to making this small step back toward normalcy and gathering again! We are doing everything in our power to comply with the guidelines given by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, along with the Center for Disease Control. We are doing this for the protection of those who will attend, as well as for the testimony of Christ and His church in our community.

First, those at higher risk for severe illness per [CDC guidelines](#) should not attend in-person services. We will continue to livestream our services for those who fall in this category. Don't put yourself at unnecessary risk.

Second, if you have an elevated temperatures (100.5 degrees Fahrenheit or above) or signs of illness (coughing, shortness of breath, sneezing), do not attend in-person services.

We will all have to do this together. So, please in a spirit of humility and love for one another, let's commit to the following practices. This will be our plan for the near future. We hope to be able to remove some of these restrictions soon, but for now, each time we gather together, we will need to observe these. **Let me walk you through what it will look like chronologically.**

- **When you arrive**, you can park in any parking spot. No need to social distance your cars, but please stagger your entry into the building by maintaining at least 6 feet of space between each family unit. Please refrain from hugging or shaking hands (with non-family) while on the premises. Again, this is for both protection and testimony (the world is watching).
- **As you enter** the building each person is being asked to **wear a face mask**. If you or a child are unable to wear a mask, please be sure to maintain social distance and refrain from singing.
- As you enter (we plan to leave doors open while people are entering) a **greeter on the porch** (weather permitting) will point you to the bulletins (this will also be emailed as normal so you may choose to use electronic copy to reduce touching objects) and masks available for those who don't have one.

- Again, we are asking everyone to wear a mask if at all possible. Those on the platform will not wear masks while on stage only (we will wear while among the congregation). We will make sure there is a distance of at least 12 feet between the unmasked platform personnel and the congregation.
- **We will have ushers on each side of the auditorium** helping seat each individual/family (ushers on Sunday morning only). We have roped off every other pew and staggered the seating for pews on the side to ensure 6 feet between family groups. Side pews need to be for a single family unit, individuals or couples. Couples can sit on each end of the center pews with social distance of six-feet between the separate couples. Of course, families can use the center pews also. The ushers will simply help ensure social distance.
- We will be limiting bathrooms to one person at a time (with someone disinfecting all handles after each use). The basement and the area behind the pulpit will be closed off. No nursery or children's church will be provided at this time. We will not be resuming Sunday School or children/youth ministries at this point. We will resume as soon as possible. Until then, the FB Live and Zoom options for children and youth will still be utilized.
- Our worship service on Sunday will look just like it has in past and online more recently. Every element will be present. We will sing, pray, read scripture, preach, and give. **The differences will be** that all those participating in congregational singing will be required to wear a mask and we will not be passing a plate. Offering plates will be available in the vestibule and online giving will still be available. On Wednesday, we'll sing a hymn (or two), pray, and listen to Pastor Jonathan teach the Bible.
- **After the service**, you will be dismissed row by row starting in the back of the auditorium. Please engage in social distancing as you exit and return to your vehicles. Please keep in mind that we need to disinfect the building before the 11 AM service, so we will need to clear the building promptly after the 9 AM service.

Thank you for your patience as we try to do what we believe is best for our church family. These are all uncomfortable practices, but will be necessary for the foreseeable future. This is not where we ultimately want to be, but it is better than nothing!

In Christ Alone,
 Steve Weaver, pastor
 Farmdale Baptist Church