

## FBC worship service guidelines and procedures for Covid-19 safety:

### General:

- We ask that you **wear a mask** for the entire worship service and anywhere on the church grounds when you are in close contact with people from other households.
- Please refrain from hugs and handshakes with people outside your household.
- The bathrooms will be available, but we encourage the congregation to limit their use as much as they can. We do not expect people to be uncomfortable, though.
- We will hold **two worship services**: one in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. and one in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. We will poll the congregation in advance of our first service to learn about their service and seating preferences.
- To avoid close contacts with other people in small, unventilated areas, **we will not use the elevator**. Please sign up for the 11:00 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall if you typically need the elevator to access the sanctuary.
- We ask that you stay home from church if you are experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to someone who is symptomatic or who has tested positive for Covid-19. You may also consider whether in the previous two weeks you've been in public situations where safety guidelines were not observed. Finally, if you've travelled to areas of the country or world where cases are on the rise, please take special care to evaluate your potential exposure. We have designed our guidelines to limit the chance of virus transmission during the service as much as possible, but there is no reason to take unnecessary risks. Think of it this way: if someone told you right now that you had the virus, would you be surprised, or would you have a good idea how you got it? **If you have significant concerns about your own prior exposure, please take advantage of the online resources instead of attending in person.**

### Arrival, seating, and dismissal:

- To accommodate as many people as possible in their preferred seating area (sanctuary main floor, sanctuary balcony, Fellowship Hall), we will use an assigned seating chart. The ushers can help you find your seat if you have trouble locating it.
- Households are assigned a single pew (half of a row), and the available rows are designed to space members of different households by at least 12 ft. (This distance will limit the risk associated with singing.) If your household can't fit on a single pew, please indicate that when you reply to the seating poll.
- For the 9:00 a.m. service, please enter the church building through the front doors.
- When you in the sanctuary or the Fellowship Hall, make sure that the aisle is clear before you make your way to your seat.
- We will exit the sanctuary using only the doors in the rear of the sanctuary, and we will dismiss the congregation using an order that avoids close contacts. In the sanctuary, we'll dismiss the balcony first (right, then middle, then left) and then the main floor from back to front. For the Fellowship Hall service, we will exit the church through the side door and dismiss the congregation from the front of the hall to the back.

Worship services:

- The services will be a little shorter than our normal services and will include limited hymn singing.
- You will find bulletins for the worship service in your assigned seat, placed there well in advance of the service to avoid virus transmission on the surface of the paper.
- We won't pass a plate to collect the offering, but there will be a place to leave your offering in the vestibule as you exit the sanctuary. We encourage you to use checks for your offering (if you are able), and the option to mail in your offerings (now going to the church office) is still a great way to contribute as well.
- For now, we will not have communion services. We do have some individually wrapped elements that we may use in the future.
- We will not provide nursery care during the service.
- Families should stay together and children (and Dan) should stay in their seat during the service.

Coffee hour:

- For now, we will not have a coffee hour. Following the worship service, you are welcome to visit with people outside. Please leave your mask on and stay at least 6 ft away from people outside your household.

If you have questions or concerns about any of these guidelines, please contact Pastor Bill or the church Moderator, Ephraim Woods.