



REGATHERING PLAN

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FMBC Regathering Plan

Dear Members,

We eagerly want to regather as a church. We want to assemble, face to face, in order to continue to do the work of the ministry. This is essential! This is the way Jesus designed the church. Assembling as a church is part of our heartbeat!

Friendship Baptist Church exists to glorify God by evangelizing the lost and equipping the saints with the goal of Christlikeness.

We exist first and foremost to glorify God! ([Ephesians 3:20-21](#)). We primarily do this by evangelizing the lost ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Acts 1:8](#)), and by equipping you the saints to do the work of the ministry with the goal of growing together unto Christlikeness ([Ephesians 4:12-23](#)). With our focus on our mission statement- on the main thing- we seek to wisely regather as a local church.

Our Commitment to You as Leaders

As your Pastor, I **am thankful** that you have consistently and joyfully lived out this mission statement during this time of quarantine and I am confident that you will continue to do so even during this rapidly changing and difficult time. The leadership of Friendship Baptist Church wants you to know that **God's people with good hearts have different mindsets**- but that is not unique to this pandemic. God's people have always had the responsibility to operate according to their conscience. Together, as one Body, the Church, we have the responsibility of progressing toward Christlikeness as we pursue His commission.

We also want you to know that **we desire that you are not distracted when worshipping**. If that means staying home and worshiping by livestream for now- we support that decision. If that means following the regathering plan below- we support that decision.

We desire that you continue to grow in disciple-making. If you are comfortable taking advantage of the easing social distancing according to government guidelines- we support that decision. If not, please continue to deepen your relationships with each other through God's Word as often and by whatever means necessary to do so.

We desire that you remain teachable. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, it is clear that "normal" will not come soon. Please understand that as under-shepherds we are trying to lead all the sheep, and not one is expendable!

Overview of Our Church's Plan

We have strived to use as much Godly wisdom as possible in developing our regathering plan. In the process, we have looked at the CDC recommended guidelines and **consulted many other resources**. To regather safely, there will be many changes at this time...the "normal" still does not exist yet. **There is no set timing.** We will gradually open our ministries based on the situation in our community. Additionally, guidance to move from one phase to another will be in line with the CDC guidelines.

- **Phase 1**
- Sunday Morning Worship will resume Sunday, January 2, 2022, at Friendship as follows.:
 - 8am worship: Streaming---Continue using our dial in number-- (862) 799-9920 or YouTube
 - 11 am worship: Streaming and Face-to-Face--. **You may begin arriving at 10:45 am for face-to-face worship. (See pre-registration instructions)**

- Due to limited seating of *90* individuals for regathering, please help us plan by RSVPing beginning Monday, December 27, 2021 (Monday-Friday from 10 am to 3 pm) by contacting Sis. Sandra Parker (843)455-3277 or Sis. Patricia Rainey (843) 855-1515 to let us know you plan to attend and what Sundays in the month to RESERVE your seating
- In the event you will not be attending, please make contact immediately to one of the people above in the event we have a waiting list so others will be able to attend on that Sunday.

Before You Come: The following are some items to consider before you come back to church:

We are recommending that **those most vulnerable** to the virus stay home and continue to worship via livestream. Vulnerable individuals include:

- the elderly (65 and older)
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions (including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy, to name a few).
- This is according to government guidelines. This is only a recommendation. We are asking you to pray for wisdom as you make your own decisions about regathering.

The Health Ministry Team/Greeters/Hostess Teams (located in the vestibule of the church) will operate in a Godly and responsible manner to ensure a pleasant and rewarding worship experience for all. They will be required to wear mask and gloves. The team will be responsible for the following:

- You will be required to always wear a mask for your safety and the safety of others while in the building.
- You will be required to complete a Coronavirus-COVID-19 Questionnaire to determine if you are safe to enter.
- You will be required to show that you are fully vaccinated—ages 5 and up (present your vaccination card and another form of ID) upon arriving on the steps of the Church. *Your temperature will be checked then given a green "dot" and then you proceed to the Vestibule for additional instructions. (You should not come if you have a temperature of 100.4° or higher and other possible Covid symptoms.)*
- Upon stepping into the vestibule, you will be asked to sign a "Wavier of Liability and Release" document or submit the one attached to this document. (See attached form)
- Talk to your children and remind them that church will be a bit different and that they should **avoid physical contact** with others. As parents, I am sure you will do your best to instruct your child(ren), but they are still child(ren). Please weigh this factor in your minds as you think about attending our worship services in person.

USHERS (located at the sanctuary doors to assist you) will operate in a Godly and responsible manner to ensure a pleasant and rewarding worship experience for all. They will be required to wear mask and gloves. The team will be responsible for the following:

- Doors will be propped open so that you will not have to touch the handles/knobs.
- Ushers will seat you and dismiss you. Families may sit together—but once seated that is where you will be until dismissal by the Ushers at the end of worship.

Invitation/Altar Call:

- At the end of the message, attendees who wishes to make the decision to join Church will do so at their seat by standing on their feet and the pastor will recognize them. At the end of worship, they will pick up a “New Member Packet” from the usher. They will take home and complete the necessary information in the packet and return the document(s) to the church secretary.

The Lord’s Table:

- You will be given a prepackaged individual container of juice and a wafer by a Deacon/Deaconess as you enter the sanctuary on 1st Sundays to take to your seat to await the usual instructions from the pastor. At end of worship, an usher will have a container available where you can drop your communion containers. If not in attendance, you will continue to pickup your communion on Saturday before first Sunday from 10 to 12 noon or on first Sunday morning from 8 to noon under the canopy.

Offerings:

- At door of the sanctuary, there will be a trustee holding a basket where you will put your offering upon entering the sanctuary. If you have not fully prepared your offering at that time, you may ask the usher for an envelope to complete your offering once seated. There will not be any envelopes in the pews upon regathering. You will have an opportunity to drop your offerings upon dismissal from services.

Please keep these items in mind:

- Please follow instructional signs. Some areas of the Church will be roped off to discourage social congregating before and after the services.
- There will be **no** programs offered or use of hymnals.
- We will meet according to ***strict social distancing*** (6 feet in all directions between individuals). Please refrain from any handshaking or hugging.
- We will require ***mask or face covering for ages 5 and up the entire time you are in the Church.***
- ***Hand sanitizer stations*** will be strategically posted.
- ***Doors will be propped*** open and social distancing will be observed.
- Our water dispensers will be closed. There will be no access to coffee or snacks.
- Attendees are encouraged to promptly return to their vehicles and refrain from fellowship at the end of service. (This will be tough...but necessary to ensure everyone safety.)

Sanitization of our Facility:

- **The vestibule will immediately be sanitized after all worshippers have entered into the sanctuary.**
- **Immediately, we will be *disinfecting* bathrooms between each individual use and high-touch surfaces.**
- **A team (wearing gloves and masks) will have the job to clean and sanitize the facility (which includes the entire sanctuary, vestibule, bathrooms and front porch area) at the end of worship.**
- **Approved cleaning products/machines will be aligned with the CDC recommendations.**
- **Six feet distancing will be followed by the team to ensure safety while working**

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire

(This form must be completed by all worshippers each time you attend worship.)

The safety of our church members remains a major priority. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to others, we are conducting a simple screening questionnaire with this form. Your participation is important to help us take precautionary measures as to protect you and others.

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS:

1. Have you had close contact with or been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
YES NO (If YES, please provide documentation of a negative test)
2. Have you experienced any of these symptoms (*fever, chills, sore throat, respiratory illness, difficulty breathing or loss of taste or smell*) in the last 14 days?
YES NO (If YES, please provide documentation of a negative test)
3. If I develop any of the above symptoms, I will not be in attendance to worship.
YES NO
4. Are you fully vaccinated (ages 5 and up)? (Please show your vaccination card and ID)
YES NO

5. Have you traveled internationally within the last 14 days? YES NO

If the answer is “YES**” to questions 1 or 2, you will not be allowed to enter to worship.

If the answer is “NO**” to question 4, you will not be allowed to attend worship.

PHONE _____

Signature of Attendee

Print Name---



WAVIER OF LIABILITY AND RELEASE

I hereby release and agree to hold FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH harmless from and waive all causes of action, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, and compensation for illness or death arising out of exposure to COVID-19 that may be caused by any act or failure to act during my participation in worship services on behalf of myself, my heirs, and any personal representatives. I understand that this Waiver discharges Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and its representatives may have against the church arising out of exposure of COVID-19. The Waiver of Liability and Release extends to all members at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

By initialing below, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that there is a possibility of exposure to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in worship and exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability and/or death.

INITIAL: _____

Attestation:

By voluntarily initialing and affixing my initials and signature to this Waiver of Liability and Release, I attest that I have read and fully understand this statement in its entirety and that my participation in worship is strictly voluntary and not under threats, duress or coercion by anyone.

Member/Participant

Phone #

Date