

REOPENING GUIDELINES

First Baptist Church, Celeste intends to follow the State of Texas and CDC guidelines and recommendations for safe reopening of our church. We care deeply about the safety of every person who wishes to attend our church. **Phase 1** of our reopening begins May 31st. As the state and local authorities update their guidelines and recommendations, we will respond accordingly.

We are so excited that we will be able to get together for corporate worship again! We have missed this time! In order to provide a safe environment for worship, we ask that you read the following guidelines before you attend and follow them. In **Phase 1**, we will begin with only our 10:30 am worship service; we will not have Sunday School or Bible studies in **Phase 1**, and we will not provide a nursery or child care.

A) ATTENDANCE

- FBC encourages those who are 65+ or are in an at-risk category to stay home. We will continue our online ministry for you. However, if you feel comfortable, you have the freedom to act as you feel led by God.
- If you have an illness of any type, or if you have been around someone who has been sick, or someone in your family has been sick, please stay home.
- Our goal is to provide a safe environment for everyone to worship the Lord. If you are uncomfortable getting out at this time for any reason, please stay home and we will continue to provide our online ministry for you.

B) ENTRANCE/EXIT

- We will open the doors for the Sunday morning worship at 10:15 am. We will only open one entrance for Sunday morning worship, the double-glass doors by the main office. We will have a designated Door Opener with gloves and mask who will open the door for you when you arrive.
- We will have the doors into the sanctuary already open so no one will have to touch any doors or doorknobs as they enter the sanctuary.
- At the close of the service, we will dismiss everyone by row, beginning in the back, in order to minimize any contact with other people who wish to maintain social distancing.
- We will provide hand sanitizer for everyone at the back of the sanctuary.
- We will not have child care or Children's Church in **Phase 1** of reopening. We welcome children in the worship service. We ask that parents be considerate of others and keep their children close!

C) SEATING

- We will block off every other row in the sanctuary to facilitate social distancing for everyone.
- We ask that you leave a minimum of six (6) feet of space on each row between people not of the same family. We also ask that you observe social distancing at all times out of respect for others.
- Once you are seated, please stay in your area so that others will know where to sit when they arrive for the worship service.

D) MINIMAL CONTACT

- We will not have anything that transfer from people to people: no bulletins, no handouts, no passing the offering plates, etc.
- We ask that you not leave the service. If you must leave, please consider not re-entering in order to avoid contact with other people.
- Please do not allow your children to roam from your area.

E) CLOSED AREAS

- At this time, all Sunday School rooms and the Welcome Room will be closed.
- We will also close the restrooms since the area is so confining and there is such much opportunity for contact with other people. The length of our service will be shortened due to this factor.
- The sound booth and stage area are off-limits.

F) TITHES and OFFERINGS

- We will not be passing the offering plates during the service.
- We will have an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary for those who wish to give cash or write a check. You can also continue to give at the Celeste Bank, online, or text.