

Greater Mt Carmel Baptist Church

Social Distancing Procedure

We recognize that these are unsettling times and we very much appreciate your efforts to support our church while caring for your families and communities. In an effort to better protect the safety of our church from potential exposure to COVID-19, and out of an abundance of caution Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church will be instituting the following procedures.

- Any member who is high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should not attend any church activity. You're encouraged to stay home and participate in online church activities through conference calls, YouTube and Facebook. Per the CDC these persons are:
 - People 65 years and older.
 - People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
 - People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart conditions
 - People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
 - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
 - People with diabetes
 - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - People with liver disease

For additional information see the CDC website

- Members attending services are required to wear a mask or some type of covering over their nose and mouth (no children under the age of 2 should attend service).
- Upon entering the sanctuary member's temperature will be taken to confirm they don't have a fever, which is a symptom of the virus. Any member with a temperature of 100.3°F or higher will be asked to follow the service virtually and not allowed to enter the sanctuary.
- Members entering the sanctuary are asked to sanitize hands before entry.

- Members entering the sanctuary will need to provide their name and phone number to ensure they can be contacted if necessary.
- Recommended seating areas will be marked in the pews to provide at least six feet between members/families (family members living in the same household will be allowed to sit together).
- Pews will be marked to reinforce guidelines. Every other row of pews will be left open.
- Programs will be placed on the pews.
- Members are asked to bring their own bibles or plan to use their phones for scripture reading. Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pews and will not be available to the general congregation.
- Offering will be collected as members exit the sanctuary.
- Members are reminded that mask and social distancing should be practiced before and after services on the church parking lot.
- Under Phase-1 church attendance will be limited to 25% of the maximum capacity or 75 attendees; under Phase-2 church attendance will be limited to 50% of the maximum capacity or 150 attendees.

Members are currently being asked to call the church office by noon on the Friday before church service to inform the secretary of your plans to attend services. This will allow the tracking of expected attendance and prevent turning away members because maximum capacity has been reached. **Members who don't call should know there is the possibility of being turned away if the maximum capacity has been reached.**

- Any member who attends church service and is later diagnosed with the Corona Virus should contact Sis. Bernadette Terrell at 225-223-1987. Sis. Terrell will then work with the proper personnel to ensure notification of persons who were potentially exposed. Every effort will be made to protect members privacy as we manage the safety of our membership.

Note: These guidelines are being used to protect the safety of all our members. They may be revised based on additional guidance from the CDC and Louisiana Department of Health. Your cooperation is appreciated.