





On Monday, April 27th, Governor Abbott presented his plan to reopen Texas for business. May 1st, restaurants and retail stores will be allowed to open at 25% capacity. Some churches in our area will begin to hold mass gatherings of 100 people or fewer for worship services as early as May 3.

### **What about us at Memorial First? What is our plan for re-opening?**

Based on the guidance we have received from the TX LA Gulf Coast Synod, our Church Council has decided for the safety of the entire Memorial First Family, **the EARLIEST date that we might resume in-person worship is May 17, 2020.** This is a movable date that is dependent upon our area meeting the gating criteria of 14 days of declining cases as established by the White House.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has aptly pointed out that “the virus makes the timeline.” However, we have started the planning process with this date in mind so that if the numbers trend in our favor, we will be ready to go and if we need to delay a week or two, we will then have even more time to ensure we are well prepared and re-open safely.

Over the next weeks, we will be sending out a hardcopy mailer with detailed guidance on how our Sunday morning worship services will be conducted in the post-COVID 19 era. It is not too early to begin grounding your expectations in the reality of

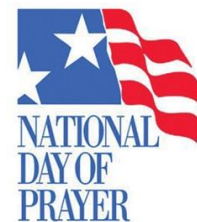
some of the more immediately visible changes you will experience. What you will be coming back to on May 17th is NOT what you left on March 15.

Sunday gatherings will now involve strict social distancing, mandatory use of face masks, restricted campus access, no formal social activities (coffee/donuts, etc.) and intentionally reduced sanctuary capacity. “At-risk” populations should stay home until the situation improves. We will continue to livestream services via Facebook and are exploring how to do so via our website as well.

We realize that everyone is anxious to “get back to church!” Our priority is the safety of our Memorial First Family. Again, as we make our decisions, we are committed to a “data not dates” approach. The plan may change as the data evolves, and we are remaining flexible. While we expect to re-open on May 17th, if the data shows it's not safe, that date may change, and we will let you know.

As always, we are available by phone and email. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We also recommend that you check our Facebook page for on-going updates. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence.

Pr. Steve  
(on behalf of the entire Church Council)



**THURSDAY, MAY 7th**



*SUNDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>*



*MONDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>*



*SATURDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>*



*Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>*



*Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>*



**UFA Monthly Collection Items:** Since food stamps can't be used to buy non-food items, the United Faith Alliance is asking churches to collect non-food items on a rotating basis. **Bar Soap has been designated for the May collection.** Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the church narthex.



**May 19:** George & Amy Hill  
**May 23:** Cindy & Charles Totty  
**May 26:** Deryl & Roniell Love

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**May 4:** Caitlyn Schlecht  
**May 5:** Alexis Jacobs  
**May 13:** Max Herrera  
**May 14:** Alexandra Stephenson  
**May 15:** Jamie Lewton  
**May 19:** Cayden Chollett  
**May 23:** Lindsay Hood  
 Ed Mabry  
**May 24:** Eleanor DeCuir  
 Lauren Schlecht  
 Csilla Stiles  
**May 28** Linda Duncan  
 Don Pollock  
**May 31:** Katie Monson



**DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWS SUBMISSIONS IS TUESDAY, MAY 28.**



## In Our Prayers...

- Health Care Workers & 1<sup>st</sup> Responders
- Joyce Palmer
- Dave Palmer
- Mike Allison
- Donna Allison
- Rocky Schaper
- Peggy Armstrong
- Catherine Brown
- Bev Churchwell
- Imogene Christian
- Betty Coulthard
- Linda Duncan
- Kathryn Franks
- Mary Guajardo
- Evelyn Jolly
- Thomas Kaye
- Joe King
- Juanita Lux
- Shirley Martinez
- Kathryn McKaig
- Carol J. Rhodes
- David Robinson
- Theresa Smith
- Frances & Larry Weber
- Martha Welch
- Barbara Bradford
- Mary Bradford
- Shirley Cato
- Gerald Cleveland
- Patia Darras
- Carolina Diaz
- Terry Dellolio
- Beth Eslinger
- Ben Gayle
- Lindsay Grigsby
- Ira (Dubby) Hansley
- Barbara Heckendorn
- Maryem Holt
- John Laurence
- Shirley Long
- John Marshall
- Danny Meyer
- Alice Metcalf
- Karla Peschka
- Karly Sevinsky
- James Thompson
- Ralph Ray Snarr, Jr.
- Wm. Knichel

### Military:

- Alexis Copeland
- Marshal Fundling
- Kaleb Jacobs
- Andrew Redmon
- Georgie Rodriquez, Jr.
- Peri Schoppe