



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Kristopher S. Reese, Pastor

August 8, 2020

Deacons

Thomas B. Piland
Chairman

James A. Harris, Sr.- *Vice Chairman*
Elnora M. Carr
Linda A. Chapman
Raynard D. Doughtw
Thelma W. Griffin
Lavern Jenkins
Juanita P. Kent
John Lawson
Mary V. Rush
James R. Sanders
Margie A. Wright
Deborah L. Wyrick

Trustees

Joyce Petteway-*Chairman*
Rondell Bulls
Gene Council
Carrie Jackson
Sharon Mulley
William Parkmond

Deacon Margie Wright
Church Clerk

SUNDAY WORSHIP-WHAT TO EXPECT

Family and Friends of Grace Baptist Church (GBC)

Words cannot express how much we have missed being able to gather with you in person during this season of quarantine. Our prayer is that your love for Jesus is deepening during this time and that we will all come back from this with a greater appreciation for the need for fellowship with other believers.

We have been praying about what reopening our physical gatherings should look like and planning a timeline that is intentional and easy to understand.

Of course, there is no perfect re-opening plan that will suit every church member's preference. As we take steps to reopen, let's all willingly submit our preferences to a generalized plan to achieve the greater good, maintaining the unity of the body. We understand that this plan will feel too fast for some and too slow for others. That's the beauty of having a diverse congregation! Thank you for using this as an opportunity to honor others in our church family who feel differently than you and for honoring your church leaders as they lead.

As we start our in-person gathering, there are a few goals. We will: (1) honor our governing officials, (2) love our neighbors, & (3) glorify our LORD as we accomplish goals (1) & (2). We will do everything we can to help ensure GBC a safe place for you and you families.

For those not able or not quite ready for in-person gatherings, our Sunday Worship Services will be live streamed at 10:00 AM each Sunday. Please join us on: YouTube (Grace Baptist Church of Waterbury) or on our Facebook page (Grace Baptist Church of Waterbury). The service will remain available online at our YouTube page and our Facebook page after the Sunday service.

The anticipation date of re-entry into our church building is Sunday, October 4, 2020

SPECIAL INFO FOR THOSE ATTENDING IN-PERSON – SUNDAY’S @ 10:00 AM

Those with a fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or symptoms of COV-19, or known exposure to a **COVID-19 case in the prior 14 days should not attend**. Temperatures will be taken prior to entrance into the building. We are suggesting you arrive no later than 9:30 a.m.

- We will have sanitizers, disinfectant wipes and masks available when needed.
- Our church is always open to all ages.
- **Masks required for all ages 10 and up (Those with health conditions that prohibit wearing a face covering are exempt).**
- If you start coughing or sneezing, please excuse yourself to the foyer area.
- The maximum seating capacity for the main sanctuary will be 75, and the fellowship hall maximum seating capacity will be 40 during the worship services.
- Even numbered rows are not open for sitting.
- Those living in the same household may sit together.
- When choosing a seat, please allow safe social (physical) six feet distance from those not in your household.
- Offering will be received by the Trustees upon entering/exiting the sanctuary. We encourage you to use the **Online Giving Options: Cash App=\$Give2gbc, Text to give=860-530-5551 or our website at gracebaptistchurch-waterbury.com** This will ensure safety for our financial officers. **We will continue to receive checks and cash, but we strongly encourage online giving.**
- Communion elements should be picked up from the Deacons every first Sunday upon entering the Sanctuary. The elements will be pre-packaged in safe plastic bags for each disciple.
- We will forgo our usual “greet” time during worship service.
- Our order of service has changed to stay within the guidelines outlined by the CDC and the State of Connecticut. We will continue our mid-week Bible study on our conference call line for noon day bible study (Mon-Friday) Wednesday evening at 6pm.

A bulletin with sermon notes and announcements will *not* be distributed. All announcements and sermon notes will be projected on the monitors going forward.

- All ministry activities have been postponed until Spring 2021, including our community breakfast, repast for funerals, potluck dinners etc. We will not open up the fellowship hall or any outside activities until further notice.
- Our music ministry will resume rehearsals beginning in 2021, and we will continue with our current praise team ministry until further notice.
- Please plan to be cooperative, considerate, respectful, flexible and patient with our ministry staff and each other.
- Grace Baptist Church WILL NOT BE liable for anyone who may contract COVID-19 during worship services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Our janitorial contractor cleans and disinfects our building three times weekly.
 - Cleaning lowers the risk of spreading infection
 - Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.
 - Special attention is given to high touch areas (including sanctuary seating)

This plan has been constructed based off what the Bible instructs regarding WISDOM:

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your works to the *LORD* And your plans will be established.”

Proverbs 16:9 “The mind of man plans his way, But the *LORD* directs his steps.”

Proverbs 15:22 “Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.”

Proverbs 21:5 “The plans of the diligent [lead] surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty [comes] surely to poverty.”

The plan is meant to be flexible. Adapt it to fit your unique situation and your own caution level while at the same time not giving in to fear or becoming apathetic about the need for fellowship. COVID-19 is obviously a fluid situation with unpredictable regional spikes. As a result while this timeline represents our planned phased re-opening, we may have to adjust our timeline based on COVID status in the community.

We love each and every one of you and are honored to serve and lead this church family.

May God continue to bless you and your family. We look forward to seeing you real soon!

Love,
Pastor Reese

“...a house of prayer for all peoples.” Isaiah 56:7