

Response to COVID-19 and the Reopening of Friendship Baptist Church



The Reopening of Our Church for Worship Services

The state of Ohio has begun to unveil its guidelines for reopening. We have, from the beginning, taken the advice and counsel from our Governor in the moving from in-the-building to livestreaming for the safety of our people and our testimony in the community. Churches have never been prohibited from meeting, as our Governor has carefully protected the First Amendment rights. Stores, businesses, restaurants and other areas previously closed are now opening up. After much prayer and talk with our staff and deacons, Friendship Baptist Church will officially be reopening for services on Sunday, May 31. Please note the following plans we are implementing in order to ensure a safe reopening of our church facilities:

We will reopen for Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services to comply with 50% of fire code crowd size. That will necessitate that we schedule groups for varying services. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening will remain the same time, open for all members that wish to attend.

PHASE 1 - SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

Worship services will be interpreted for the deaf, but there will be no Nursery, Sunday school (adult or child), Children's Church or Bus Service.

Group 1 Worship Hour: 9:00am – 10:00am

Please park in the upper lot and handicap spaces as much as possible to reduce traffic and contact between services.

This group will include members of the following Sunday school classes:

ANTIOCH	FAMILYBUILDERS	FRIENDSHIP	WOMEN OF THE WORD
FAITHBUILDERS	FELLOWSHIP	OVERCOMERS	

Group 2 Worship Hour: 10:30am – 11:30am

Please park in the lower lot as much as possible to reduce traffic and contact between services.

This group will include members of the following Sunday school classes:

COLLEGE AND CAREER	HOMEBUILDERS	TRAILBLAZERS	ALL KID CITY CLASSES
ENGAGING LIVES	LIFEBUILDERS	NAVIGATORS	ETHIOPIAN FELLOWSHIP

Those who are not currently in a Sunday school class, as well as those who have personal reasons, may choose to attend either worship service.

SUNDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

Service will be interpreted for the deaf, but there will be no Choir Practices, Nursery or Children's Ministries at this time.

Open to All Members: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

Service will be interpreted for the deaf, but there will be no Nursery or Children's Ministries at this time.

Open to All Members: 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Adults – Meet in the Auditorium
Choir Members – Meet in the Faithbuilders Room

PHASE 1

SUNDAY MORNING

SUNDAY EVENING

WEDNESDAY EVENING

PHASE 2

GENERAL GUIDELINES

PHASE 2 - SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

We pray to move to Phase 2 of our plan soon, which will include Sunday school along with the two worship services using the same groups as Phase 1.

1. Greeters may be available for each service, but only to welcome attendees to the auditorium. Bulletins will be available at the Welcome Center for personal pick-up.
2. Initially there will be no Children's Church or Nursery. Parents may bring their children into the worship services.
3. There will be no Youth Section during the worship services to help with seating capacity. We ask that teens sit with their family.
4. Offering boxes will be available before and after services outside the auditorium door. We recommend dropping off your offering prior to the service so traffic is not hindered upon exiting. Offering plates will not be passed around during the services. You may also give electronically through our website.
5. FBC requests that there be no congregating in the foyers. For social interaction, we request that people find their choice seat in the auditorium and network with those around them.
6. The meet and greet time usually conducted during each service will be postponed until further notice.
7. Social distancing will be adhered to except for those living within the same household. We will ask that all families/groups sit in every other row and adhere to the 6-foot rule in each row.
8. Masks will not be required, but are acceptable. We seek to minimize close interaction by practicing the safe social-distancing guidelines.
9. Doors will be marked for orderly entrance and exit.
10. Dismissal for each service will be done in an orderly fashion by releasing one section at a time.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

We are praying about some of the youth activities for this summer and invite you to do the same. Activities such as teen and children's camps will need to be cancelled. We will livestream VBS, with packets for families to take home with crafts.

If you are sick, we ask that you stay home and enjoy the livestream service from there. If you are concerned about attending services, it is highly recommended that you continue to view the services via livestream and not feel pressured to attend.

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 please take the necessary precautions. You can read more online at [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov) in the article, "Guidelines for Opening Up America Again".

Please know that every room in the church has been sanitized. The carpet in the entire church has been cleaned and the pews have been steam-cleaned. Between each service there will be a team of people cleaning all the doors and hard surfaces in and leading to the auditorium.

While I understand that not everyone will physically be here on our first Sunday back, we plan on having a Red Carpet Day. It will be an exciting morning as we gather together once again. Look for a Red Carpet greeting and have a family photo taken. I hope to see you then; but if not, I hope you will watch our service via livestream as you have been doing already.

In closing, I cannot tell you how proud I am of the faithfulness of our people during this pandemic. Despite all that each of us has done, it can't replace the joy of being together in one place to worship. May the Lord grant us wisdom, health and overall safety in all of this, and may His name be glorified!

In Christ.



Gary L. Jackson
Pastor

COVID-19 is highly contagious and is known to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. By attending **Friendship Baptist Church**, you agree to abide by the procedures established by the church to protect attendees and staff, and you voluntarily assume the risk that you and/or your family may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 either at the church, in the church worship service, or in the nursery or Sunday School. You agree to assume all the risks of attendance and participation for you and your family, and you waive any liability against the church and any other parties.