



# Gathered Worship Plan, Phase 2

Meadow Brook Baptist Church—updated on *Tuesday, July 14, 2020*

As you are well aware, we made the decision on March 13 to suspend all our in-person gatherings, and we have continued to meet online since that time. We believed then (and we still believe now) that such a decision was necessary for the health of our own church family, as well as our community as a whole. Moreover, we believe that such a concern for one another and for our neighbors should remain, even as we begin looking toward the next steps. This document contains important information regarding the **next steps Meadow Brook Baptist Church will be taking** in light of the current health crisis caused by COVID-19. **Please read it carefully and review it as needed.**

We implemented a “phase one” of gathering again on Sunday, June 7, 2020. This initial phase of gathering extended six weeks and consisted of Sunday morning worship only with three shortened AM worship services.

After much prayer, discussion, and evaluation, we are transitioning to our **“phase two” of regathering this Sunday, July 19**. The primary change will be **two Sunday morning services, rather than three**.

## Schedule & Venues

The Sanctuary will host identical, 45-minute **worship services at 8:30AM and 10:45AM**. Based upon capacity and attendance, this will still allow us to maintain proper social distancing. If needed, the Fellowship Hall may be used as an overflow space with a live stream from the Sanctuary.

This schedule allows you to attend worship at 8:30 or 10:45 and still participate in Sunday School at 9:30, if that is most convenient. Also, during this phase **various groups may choose to gather offsite** with proper precautions in place, such as meeting outdoors, maintaining proper distancing and wearing masks when feasible. At this time, we continue to advise senior adults and at-risk groups to gather online.

## Guiding Factors

In addition to what the Scripture teaches us about corporate worship, we have:

- Prayed for clear wisdom from the Lord
- Reviewed our government leaders’ guidelines for reopening
- Sought counsel from our COVID Advisory Team

## **Capacities**

The Sanctuary will have alternating pews blocked off, allowing us to practice social distancing of 6 feet or more in every direction between participants from different households. If utilized as an overflow space, the Fellowship Hall will be set up with rows at 6 foot spacing.

## **Attendance**

- During this phase, please help us by not arriving more than 15 minutes before the worship service begins, and by departing the building in a timely manner. We will catch up on fellowship soon!

## **Before you Come**

- If you or someone in your household is especially at high risk to the Coronavirus, please continue to participate in our services online during this phase.
- If you are not high risk and are comfortable attending public worship at this time, please make sure you are healthy. If you are symptomatic, have a fever, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, please stay at home.
- For the safety of everyone in attendance, we ask that all people wear a face mask (including children 3 years and older) once you exit your vehicle and throughout your time in the church building. If you do not have a mask, we will have some available for you.

## **Adjustments**

- We will only utilize the upper parking lot, closing off access to the lower level of the building. We ask that everyone enter and exit through the main entrance at the Sanctuary portico.
- For everyone's safety, the following still will not be available during this second phase:
  - There will be no nursery or children's church.
  - There will be no printed bulletins.
  - There will be no greeting time.
  - There will be no Pew Bibles or Hymnals.
  - We will not pass offering/Communion plates.
- Worship services will be 45 minutes and family-friendly, so come with your young children.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all venue entrances, as well as outside restrooms. Please utilize upon entry and exit of restrooms, as well as when you enter the building.
- We will complete enhanced cleaning between services.
- All staff, volunteers, and attendees are to wear masks, except for platform personnel when on stage.
- We will provide temperature checks for all staff and volunteers.
- We will have stationary plates to collect tithes and offerings upon exiting the service.
- We will dismiss everyone in an orderly manner to maintain social distancing.

*Let's join in praying for the church as we continue to monitor  
the changing situation brought by the Coronavirus.*