



## SCOTSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

May 12, 2020

Re: Reopening Church Location

Dear Scotsdale Church Family,

After two months of meeting strictly online for our worship services we are pleased to announce that on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, we will begin meeting live at our 10015 Lockerbie Ave facility. Our approach to this date leads me to express to you two very important things—1) What I am thankful for; and 2) What you need to know about May 17<sup>th</sup>.

First, I want to express to you how thankful I am for your patience and continued faithfulness during this time. We sometimes overuse the term “unprecedented,” but in this case it is fitting. None of us have ever faced anything like this before. Like everyone else we are trying to make wise decisions based on information that is, in itself, dynamic. Your Staff, Elders, Deacons, and other critical volunteers have continued to meet, pray, communicate, plan, minister, and work. I am so thankful for this team of servant leaders who have stayed the course and adapted as necessary. Our Brotherhood and others have also come alongside to reach out to some of our members who are the most vulnerable to this dreaded virus. To those who continued to tithe and give sacrificially we owe much gratitude. Thank you ALL for your faithfulness!

The second thing that I want to share with you has to do with Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please read carefully because some of what I will be sharing will be your responsibility:

- The first thing that you need to know about this date is that it is a “soft target.” In all probability we will meet on this date, but if something should happen that there is a spike in COVID 19 cases or fatalities, and our city officials recommend the suspension of public services we will need to reconsider this date. If that should be the case then we will contact you. For now this is our targeted date to “reopen.”
- We will continue to provide online services using the same format that we have been broadcasting on Sunday mornings. If you prefer, you may continue to access our services in this way rather than coming to the church facility.
- Before you and/or your family members leave home on Sunday morning you need to take your temperature. If you or a family member has a temperature of 100 degrees or more then you should stay home. If you do not have a thermometer at home we will have some at the church. We will take your temperature before you enter the building. If you have a high temperature we will ask you to return for a service in the future.
- There will be no coffee or donuts before the service as we have had in the past before Sunday School.
- Following CDC Guidelines, every person must wear a face mask. If you do not have one, thanks to the work of some of our ladies, there will be a limited number of masks available to give to you. If you have your own mask you are more than welcome to bring it and wear it. If you receive a face mask from the church, you own it. It is yours. Take it with you. Don't leave it.
- We will meet in the Worship Center/Sanctuary. The two glass doors on the East and West sides of the WC will be locked. Everyone will be required to enter the building through the front of the church on the South side of the building. Doors will open at 9:00 AM. The service will begin at 9:30 AM.
- This service will be the only service provided for the foreseeable future. We will have no Sunday School, childcare, or Children's Church available. Parents, please feel free to bring your children with you to worship unless they or you are ill. *Children are a blessing/gift of the Lord (Psalm 127:3).*
- In order to provide as sanitary an environment as we can we are providing hand sanitizer in the Welcome Center. We are asking attendees to practice “Social Distancing” by refraining from hugs and handshakes (air hugs are permitted ). Upon entering the Worship Center we will have no paper bulletins. We will continue to provide an online newsletter to include announcements. We will also have the announcements on the screen.

- In order to collect tithes and offerings we will no longer pass the plate. We will provide an alternate means of receiving these contributions.
- Another suggestion made to churches is to encourage limited use of the restrooms. While our restrooms will be available, limiting restroom use is one method of limiting exposure. This is one of the reasons that our service is being shortened.
- In order to provide for proper distancing in compliance with CDC standards some seating areas will be blocked. **Please do not remove the tape!** Feel free to sit in any area that is not blocked. This will mean that you may or may not be able to sit “where I always sit.” No one owns a seat at Scotsdale. This is a time for us to be thankful and worshipful.
- While we never want to discourage anyone from coming to worship with us, we are aware that these can be some fearful times for some, namely those who are the most vulnerable to severe if not life-threatening illness if exposed. The CDC is recommending that citizens 65 and older not go out in public. We want you to know that we respect your decision to not attend our public service if you have any concerns about exposure or about your own personal health. Others who should consider not attending are those who have an already compromised health issue regardless of their age.
- The service will be designed to last from 45 minutes to one hour. It will be more basic than it has been in the past. So some of you may not get as long of a nap as usual!
- The invitation at the close of the service will look differently than in the past, so be aware of that change.
- At the close of the service one of our Elders will explain the exit plan and close in prayer. We ask that you vacate the building immediately following the service.

In closing, we are aware that this is very different from the norm. It is different for everyone including your Staff, Elders, and Deacons. So thank you again for your patience and ability to adapt. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday or whenever you feel it is safe to return.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26).*

Thankful to be Your Pastor,

*Patrick Six*

P.S. Currently the church office remains closed. We are allowing our church staff to continue working from home. We will let you know when we decide to reopen the office. When we DO reopen we ask that you not come to the church office unless you have specific church business to attend to. Allow us to assist you by phone as much as possible. If you come into the church office please wear a mask. We will do all we can to keep you and our Staff safe.

**Meeting GOD \* Listening to GOD \* Doing What God Says**

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