

## WESTERN BRANCH BAPTIST

### *Plan to Re-Open for In-Person Gathering*

#### **Re-Opening Plan for In-Person Gathering**

As you know, we made the difficult yet prudent decision in March to suspend our regular worship gatherings due to the spread of COVID-19. Over the following months we had to make some unconventional adjustments to how we do ministry so that we could meet the CDC and state of Virginia guidelines for gatherings, yet still come together as the Body of Christ. I am excited to say that during this time of transition, the Lord has blessed Western Branch through your faithfulness and perseverance. You, the church, have been evidence to show that one of the sweetest gifts that God gives to us is the Body of Christ. It is through you that He has made His grace visible. Over these last few months, you have been the touch of His hand, the sound of His voice, the evidence of His love, and the picture of His presence as we have gathered in our cars in the parking lot for worship.

That is why it is with great joy that I share with you that we will be returning to In-Person gatherings on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Just as we have had to make adjustments for Drive-In Worship, we will have to make adjustments to safely return to In-Person gatherings. Below are some of the policies and procedures that we will be required to follow.

#### **Health Policies:**

##### ***You or your entire family should not attend if...***

- Anyone in the household has had a fever in the last 24 hours.
- Anyone in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Anyone in the household has knowingly been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

##### ***You should consider staying home and joining us for worship on Facebook or through recorded DVD if...***

- You are considered to be at higher risk of infection or complications by the CDC.

- You live with or regularly come in contact with those who may be at increased risk.
- You do not feel comfortable attending an In-Person worship service.

### **Health Precautions:**

- ***Occupancy will be Limited-*** We will be practicing social distancing. Individuals must be seated 6 feet apart, but family members will be able to sit together. Seating will be marked with every other pew closed to meet guidelines. Since seating is limited, we are opening up the Ruth and R. M. Williams classrooms for overflow. A livestream of the service will be provided with full video and audio.
- ***Hand Sanitizing Stations-*** There will be hand sanitizing stations available at the entrances and exits of the building.
- ***Face Masks-*** Per CDC and State of Virginia guidelines, it is recommended that people attending service be encouraged to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth. We will have a limited number of masks available for those who would like to wear one during worship, but while masks are recommended, they will not be required.
- ***Entrance into the Building-*** We will limit the number of doors that you may use to Enter or Exit. We will have the glass doors at the front of the church open to the Sanctuary, and we will also use the handicap entrance on the side of the church facing the parsonage.
- ***Offering-*** There will be 2 offering boxes at the back of the sanctuary and there will be opportunity when entering or exiting to place your offering in the box.
- ***Bulletins-*** Copies of the bulletin will be available on a table upon entering.
- ***Restrooms-*** We are planning on having shorter services to limit the use of the restrooms. However, if you need to, they will be open and available for use.
- ***Cleaning & Disinfecting-*** A thorough cleaning and disinfecting of frequently contacted surfaces will be conducted following the service.

### **Ministry Plan:**

#### **Sunday Morning**

- ***Sunday Worship Time- Beginning Sunday, August 2, 2020 our Sunday morning worship will begin at 10:30am.***

- *Sunday Kidz Worship*- During the Worship Service, the children will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a Bible lesson, Craft, and Activities. Social Distancing measures will be in place and all surfaces will be sanitized.
- *Nursery*- At this time no nursery will be provided.

### **Wednesday Evening**

- *Sunday School, Youth, & Children*- Our desire is to meet the ministry needs of every age group of our church. We are working on coordinating efforts to conduct a blended Sunday School class of all of our adult classes. This class will meet on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary and be led by some of our Adult Sunday School Teachers. As this class meets, our Youth and Children will also be able to meet in other areas of the building that will allow for social distancing measures to be adhered to. We are still in the process of finalizing these plans and will inform the church when our Wednesday Evening Ministries will be available.

I pray that you see the great lengths that we are going through to ensure the safety of all who attend our services, and our desire to minister to every generation. We realize that even with these precautions and guidelines in place that some will make the informed decision to stay home. We want you to be free to do what is best for you and your family, but we still want to minister to you. If you don't have access to Facebook and will need a DVD provided of the service, please contact the church office so that we can ensure you get a copy. You may call and leave a message at #757-539-6854 or send email to [pastor@westernbranchsuffolk.org](mailto:pastor@westernbranchsuffolk.org).

Finally, as we move into the heart and heat of the summer, let me again thank you for your faithfulness during these difficult months. Your unity and commitment to the Lord and His church have really shone through to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am!

Your Co-Laborer in Christ,

*Pastor Micah*