

# West Heights Baptist Church

April 28, 2020

## Phased Response to Gathering Together

WOW! The past two months have been interesting to say the least. We have walked day to day wondering when we would return to gathering together for worship and fellowship at the church. During this time, we have had the opportunity to learn valuable lessons about what is truly important in our life and our walk with Christ.

We have been given the green light to slowly return to our full gathering as a church in the coming months. The staff and other leaders have discussed the details of this plan in light of how it uniquely impacts the needs of West Heights Baptist Church. Our goal is to methodically return to our full schedule while at the same time being sensitive to different needs within our congregation. We love each person and desire for the safety of everyone who worships with us each and every week.

### PHASE

1

- The church office will return to its normal operating schedule.
- Staff will be on rotation between office hours and working from home.
- Committees will resume in-person meetings.
- The walking track will reopen.

### PHASE

2

- Morning Worship Services will resume in the following way:
  - ◆ Morning services will be offered (8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am)
  - ◆ We will have sign-up for each service since the limit is 150 attendees.
  - ◆ No nursery and no Sunday school
  - ◆ Sunday evening & Wednesday nights will continue to be streamed.

### PHASE

3

- Sunday morning & evening worship services will return to normal schedule.
- No nursery
- No Sunday school
- Wednesday night services streamed online

**Moderate social distancing is encouraged during this time. If you feel sick, please stay home and join us for worship online.**

**We encourage those that are high-risk to continue to join us on-line for our live-stream each week.**

**FAQ's on the next page**

# FAQ's

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## Why are we not returning to normal schedule immediately?

This has been a unique situation that is requiring outside of the box thinking for the church. In listening to health experts, we feel it is important to return to large gatherings with a slow and methodical plan. It is important that we look out for each person in our congregation and we do our part in mitigating the spread of the virus.

## Why are we starting with multiple services with limited capacity?

In phase 2, it is recommended that large venues (gatherings of more than 50 people) resume only if moderate social distancing can be maintained. Our sanctuary has 400 seats, and if we remove every other row to maintain a 6 foot distance between rows, we now have 200 seats. We know that every seat will not be used, so we feel comfortable allowing 125-150 people to worship together within our context. The staff thinks we can accomplish this with 3 morning services. Please make sure to sign-up and let us know which one you will attend.

## When will we return to having Sunday school?

Volunteers have been our priority as we think about how to restart our Sunday school classes. Our children's ministry area is of special concern when it comes to meeting in our small groups again. At this point we don't want volunteers to feel they have to put themselves at risk in order to fulfill a commitment to volunteer. When we feel that everyone is comfortable, we will resume our classes. We encourage classes to continue to use Zoom meetings and other methods to keep connected.

## When will we return to having Wednesday night services?

During the summer we are usually on a modified schedule. With that being the case we feel it is important to focus on getting our Sunday schedule back to normal first. We will continue to live stream prayer meeting and family bible study lessons on Wednesday nights during the summer.