

# Antioch Baptist Church Re-Gathering Plan\*

## June, 2020



### **Scripture that drives our decision making:**

**I Corinthians 9:22** *“To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.”*

**I Corinthians 8:13** *“Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”* (Substitute masks, no masks, social distancing, etc. for food)

**Hebrews 10:23-25** *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not*

*neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

**I John 4:7** *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”*

### **COVID 19 FACTS:**

- Social distancing by 6 feet reduces the spread by a factor 30 compared to 3 feet.
- Wearing a face covering reduces expelled virus and potentially protects those around you.
- 25% - 36% of cases are estimated to be asymptomatic.
- 96% - 98% of total cases recover.
- 87% - 92% ages 70 – 79 recovers.
- 80 – 85% ages 80+ recover.
- Greater than 25% of symptomatic cases are mild.

### **WHEN NOT TO COME TO CHURCH is when you or a household member have any of the following: \***

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of Breath
- Aches
- Vulnerable individual\*\*

**\*\*If you meet the following criteria *the CDC recommends you continue to shelter in place until Phase III of opening America* is reached. This information is provided to allow you to make an informed decision and we will be supportive whether you attend or not.**

- You are age 65 or above
- You have serious underlying health conditions, including but not limited to, high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those with immune systems compromised by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring therapy.

**What to do when I come to church:**

- Decide which service you wish to attend.
  - The 9 am service will be for the most cautious among us and everyone will be required to wear a mask when not on stage.
  - The 11 am service will be for those who are more confident and masks will be welcome but not required.
- Wash hands before you leave you home (greater than 20 seconds)
- Wear a face covering that covers your mouth and nose (Required at 9, optional at 11). Place it on when you exit your car, during the entire service and do not remove until you are back in your car
- Sanitize hands upon entering church
- Socially distance (greater than 6 feet)
- Don't touch your face covering, eyes, nose or mouth with your hands
- Sanitize hands when leaving church
- Wash hands upon returning home
- Wash reusable face covering per manufacturer's directions

**Precautions the Church is Taking on Your Behalf.**

- The services are spaced to allow us to sanitize the worship center, lobby, and bathrooms between services.
- The Doors will be propped open to allow you to enter and exit without touching the doors. Even so, they will be sanitized periodically throughout the services.
- The chairs will be clearly set up to allow for social distancing. Please do not pull any chairs together unless you need to do so in order to sit with people who live in the same house as you or are immediate family members.
- Everyone is encouraged to move directly into the Worship Center when you enter the building thru the door marked "entrance" nearest Information Central. Our lobby is not designed for social distancing so please move into the Worship Center and chat in there. Please don't block the doors, causing a backup in the lobby.
- Please limit 2 persons at a time in the restrooms and if you have to wait, wait in the lobby instead of in the small hallway outside the restrooms.

- When you exit, please exit through the double doors nearest the parking lot or thru the single door to the left of the stage. Please carry on any conversations you want to have before entering the aisles to exit or after you get into the parking lot and a distance from the exit door.
- We will not pass the offering plates for the foreseeable future. You may continue to give online and time will be allowed in the service for that OR there are two black boxes, one near each exit we will use for you to place your offering as you exit at the end of the service.
- In all likelihood, we will share in a communion service during this month, but will continue to use the prepackaged communion elements so no one is passing the trays.

### **What about my children and teenagers?**

- We LOVE our children and students and miss them terribly and cannot wait to get them back together.
- It is our hope to do that when Tennessee considers itself in stage 3 of the reopening and right now we have planned to redeploy children's ministry in late July in time for the school year. Some of what we do will be driven by what our educators help us to understand about the situation at that time.
- Since that means no children's church, we are making these suggestions for those who want to be part of corporate worship:
  - The pastors will work to shorten the service from our usual 75 minutes to 55-60 minutes.
  - Feel free to bring things for your young children to amuse themselves while we worship, such as tablets and headphones, etc.
  - We will have the worship service streaming in the loft at the top of the stairs with chairs placed at acceptable social distancing intervals if you feel your child is being disruptive to you or someone else.
  - The nursing room for young mothers will be available as needed. We will sanitize between services but ask you to use the provided wipes to wipe down anything you all have touched.
  - We suggest you bring an age appropriate bag with snacks, crayons, quiet toys, etc and/or our Children's Minister will provide a sanitized worship box with activities each week as you enter the lobby. You can return them by the exit.
- During the month of June, we will be working to prepare our rooms and teachers for the next wave of children's ministry.
- Because teens are typically easier to keep socially distant, we will allow them to begin having their Wednesday Night Youth Group meeting on June 10, but will not be doing small groups until phase three of Tennessee's reopening. We will redeploy the small groups in conjunction with Tennessee's phase 3 and our local school systems.

### **What about my adult small group?**

- As you have discovered, the greatest challenge of this season is keeping community going in our small groups. We know that each season of adulthood has its own challenges in

gathering as a small group so we simply ask that you continue to work with your small group leader to do what's best for you and your group.

- During the month of June, our large spaces will be available on a first come, first serve basis for a group to meet during the 9 am or 11 am hour and those rooms will be sanitized between groups.

- Some groups will have discovered that they are enjoying meeting on other nights and times during the week and you are free to decide as a group to continue that. Those four rooms will be available to you at anytime by appointment.

- During June if you want to meet at someone's home where it is safe to socially distance yourselves, such as bringing your chairs and meeting outside, that is fine too.

- Each group is encouraged to continue to zoom in anyone who is at risk and wants to be involved.

- Our desperate plea to you is to not let your community disband due to this. Work hard at getting together as well and as safely as you can.

**\* This Virus and our national and state response has been constantly changing for 10 weeks now, so these plans will be modified, changed, or abandoned as the needs of the church and circumstances dictate.**