

Church family,

Let me begin by thanking you for your flexibility and faithfulness these past two months as we have navigated how to minister, worship, and enjoy fellowship while unable to gather in person. As we have worshiped via Facebook Live, conducted Bible studies over Zoom, and ministered to one another by phone, your commitment to the Lord and to one another has been an encouragement and an inspiration. Thank you, church family.

As previously announced, we will be resuming in-person worship on Sunday, May 17 at 10:45 a.m. However, with COVID-19 still a danger to public health, things are going to look considerably different for a while. Having sought guidance and wisdom from our staff, deacons, the Dallas Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the joint recommendations of the governor and state attorney general, here are some of the steps we will be taking to ensure that we can worship together safely:

- Until further notice, we will have one blended worship service at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Services will also continue to be streamed online via Facebook Live on the South Garland Baptist Church Facebook page.
- Prior to each service the entire building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Ushers will greet members and guests at the front door and escort them to their seats in the sanctuary to ensure social distancing is practiced in the foyer and sanctuary.
- Every other pew will be roped off and unavailable for seating. On usable pews, each individual or family unit will be seated at least six feet from the nearest member of another household.
- The Faithful Believers classroom, the Discovery classroom, and the sanctuary balcony will be opened up as overflow space. Should those spaces be filled, anyone remaining without a seat will be invited to watch the service via Facebook Live in Wall Hall.
- Instead of passing an offering plate, you will be invited to place your offering in a collection basket at the back of the sanctuary before or after the worship service.
- At the conclusion of the worship service, ushers will dismiss the congregation one pew at a time to help maintain social distancing.
- Following the worship service, every pew and touchpoint will be wiped down, and then the sanctuary will be thoroughly cleaned again during the week.
- We will not be offering Sunday School on campus. Classes are encouraged to continue meeting online or to meet off-campus while practicing social distancing.
- Childcare will not be provided.

These are some of the institutional steps being taken to ensure we are worshipping safely. There are also steps you can take at an individual level:

- If you are not feeling well (fever, coughing, shortness of breath, etc.), please stay home and worship with us via Facebook Live.
- If you are in a high-risk group (65 or older, serious medical conditions, etc.), we strongly encourage you to continue worshipping from home via Facebook Live.
- We strongly encourage you to wear a mask when inside the building. If you do not have one, we will have a limited number of cloth masks available.
- Please enter and exit through the front doors of the building (into the foyer) instead of through another part of the building.

We want to give you an opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification about these plans before May 17. Accordingly, I invite you to join me on Monday, May 11, at 8:00 pm for a Facebook Live town hall, where I will explain these plans in further detail and answer any questions you may have. The town hall will be broadcast on the South Garland Baptist Church Facebook page and a link to the broadcast will be e-mailed out when it begins.

We will continue to closely monitor the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our area and will make decisions about Sunday School, Wednesday night activities, and summer events based upon that information as well as guidance from state and local officials. From the beginning of this crisis, we have sought to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves, and that will continue to be the case moving forward. Please continue to pray for the staff, deacons, and other leaders of our church as we seek to serve faithfully in this time.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Daniel