

UPDATED 6.3.20



RETURN TO **CHURCH**

Plan and Guidelines

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A Quick Word

FROM PASTOR CARY

Emmanuel Family,

We are pleased to take steps toward regathering. Needfully, this will be a slow road forward requiring us to be careful and flexible. Thankfully, God’s church has always been resilient, and our church enjoys a strong spirit of unity.

Beginning June 7, you will have four options for worship:

- 1—Continue joining us online
- 2—Reserve seats for the 9:00am service (up to 100)
- 3—Reserve seats for the 10:30am service (up to 100)
- 4—Reserve seats for the 12pm service (up to 100)

Our goal is to facilitate regathering in a safe and compliant way, and to make our services as “touchless” as possible. We have tried to make these guidelines simple, asking you to manage your own risk and to express care toward others.

Finally, this plan is fluid and represents only the “first phase” of returning to church. We ask you to regather in person only when you are comfortable doing so.

We love you and look forward to worshipping with you, either in person or online. We pray diligently that this hardship will pass and that you will stay healthy and safe.

Pastor Cary

WORSHIP OPTIONS

Service Schedule and Details

Sunday Morning Schedule

Currently, our state is allowing gatherings up to 100. We expect this number to increase soon, and as it does, it will be in our online reservation system.

Worship Services—9AM, 10:30AM, 12PM

- Children and Teens should sit with their parents.
- Seating will be every two rows with four seats of spacing between family groups (ushers will help facilitate spacing).
- Childcare is not provided in the first phase of regathering.
- Nursery spaces and the Fellowship Hall will be accessible for families with small children, with the service provided on TVs. Nursery volunteers will not be serving in phase one.
- Children and Youth Ministries will remain online in phase one.
- Groups, daily devotions, and midweek Bible study will remain online in phase one.
- Sunday attendance will flow through online reservations.

WORSHIP OPTIONS

Service Schedule and Details

Reservations

- To facilitate the limited gatherings, you will need to **reserve your service time and number of seats**. You can do so online or by calling the church.
- To make a reservation, **visit ebcnewington.com/reserve**

Seating Spaces

We will provide multiple separate seating spaces during each service. This will help with social distancing, flow, and families with small children.

- **Worship Center**—for anyone
- **Lobby**— for anyone, suggested for families needing direct access to nursery rooms
- **Fellowship Hall**—for anyone, available for families needing direct access to lower level nursery rooms or restrooms

Online Midweek Service—7:00PM

- Midweek Service will remain online during phase one. Midweek Teen Zoom Meetings will continue.
- Online Q-Groups will continue for care, connection, and encouragement. To be part of a Q-Group, visit ebcnewington.com/groups.

WORSHIP PREPARATIONS

Sanitization of Facilities

While we always seek to maintain high standards of cleanliness, extra measures have been taken to clean our common areas.

Janitorial/Maintenance

- The entire facility is carefully cleaned on a weekly basis.
- In the last month, we have hired temporary additional cleaning staff to sanitize carpets, chairs, surfaces, and toys.

Adjustments Made for Your Safety

Our goal is to make service attendance as “touchless” as possible.

- Exterior and Worship Center doors will be propped open.
- Airflow will be consistent throughout the building.
- All trash cans have been replaced with open tops.
- Water fountains have been turned off.
- All door handles and surfaces in bathrooms and common areas will be cleaned before, in between, and after services.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances and throughout the building.

WORSHIP GUIDELINES

Social Distancing and Safety

Before You Attend

- Please stay home if you or anyone in your family is showing symptoms of illness.
- Please take the temperature of any family member attending.

Entering the Building

- We rearranged the lobby to help with seating and traffic flow.
- Please observe signage throughout the building.
- Hot coffee and food service will not be available.
- Bottles of water and bottled coffee drinks will be served.
- Sermon outlines will only be available for download.
- Masks are recommended, especially when singing or when physical distance may be compromised.
- Exterior doors will be propped open, and hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances.

Inside the Worship Center

- Rows will be marked by service hour. We will sit every other row with four chairs (6 feet) between each family unit.

WORSHIP GUIDELINES

Social Distancing and Safety

Inside the Worship Center (continued)

- Offering plates will not be passed. We ask you to continue giving online, or you may use the offering box at the Information Desk.
- There will be no greeting/handshaking time.
- Temporarily, we ask you to refrain from physical contact with those outside of your family.

Dismissal

- During dismissal, please maintain social distancing and avoid congregating near doors and aisles. Please be careful as you exit.
- Guest gift bags and salvation bags will be available for pickup at the Next Step tables, but there will be no volunteers at the tables.
- Temporarily, please avoid crowding the lobby or restroom areas.
- After dismissal, please exit the building so that we can reset for the next service.

WORSHIP SAFELY

Seniors and the Immunocompromised

It is safest for seniors and the immunocompromised to avoid crowds for now. Our governing leaders strongly recommend that you continue engaging online throughout phase one.

Who is at risk?

Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People with underlying medical conditions

Medical conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Chronic lung disease or asthma
- Heart conditions
- Diabetes
- Immunocompromised

If we become aware that someone who has attended a service becomes ill, we will follow these procedures:

- We will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed.
- Any areas we determine the confirmed COVID-19 person visited will be sanitized carefully.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for understanding the need for these guidelines. As we begin regathering, we each assume a certain level of risk and responsibility. Please only assume that risk when you are comfortable doing so in relation to your personal vulnerability. Please help us protect others by embracing these guidelines responsibly.

While enhanced safety measures are being taken at Emmanuel Baptist Church, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Emmanuel Baptist Church, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.