



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF LOUISVILLE

P. O. Box 523

LOUISVILLE, MS 39339

Dear members and constituents of First Methodist Church of Louisville,

It is with joyful hearts that we write this morning to share our plans to resume limited in-house worship services in the near future. Of course these services will certainly be impacted by the ongoing concerns relating to COVID19 -- but we believe we have a plan, which with your help, will allow us to return to our church building in a safe and worshipful manner. We are outlining our plans below.

Please read over these guidelines carefully. Discuss them among your family and be making your plans accordingly. We will also continue to televise our two worship services each Sunday morning on cable television and on Facebook. These telecasts can be accessed and viewed on Facebook at any time after the service has aired.

We are hopeful that we will only have to follow these modified plans for a short period of time. As a church, we want to do everything we possibly can to provide everyone with a safe environment for worship and to be responsive to our dedicated health and government officials. We are so very thankful for all who are working diligently to help restore normalcy to our lives. Continue to pray for our church, our community and our world.

Sincerely,

Mike Childs, Senior Pastor

Newlie Long, Associate Pastor

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- Limited worship services will resume on Sunday, June 7 and will include the 8:45 a.m. Contemporary Service and the 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. There will be no Sunday School, choir practice, Wednesday night suppers, Bible Study nor any other group activities until further notice. The church staff will continue to be available to all members at all times. **DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO OUR STAFF IF THERE IS A NEED IN YOUR FAMILY.**
 - Both of these Sunday services will be held in the Christian Life Center.
 - Recommended "social distancing" will be observed. However, families will be permitted to sit together (described below.) Everyone should make a conscientious effort to avoid having direct contact with others during this time when we all are trying to minimize the spread of this serious virus.
 - Worshipers should arrive with face masks which will be worn when entering and at all times during worship services. A limited number of face masks will be available for those who do not have them.

- Temperature checks of all worshipers will be performed upon entering the building using touch-free thermometers. Anyone with a fever of 100 degrees or more will be asked to return home with instructions to seek medical attention. It is important that each worshiper follow certain self-awareness disciplines. You should not plan to attend in-house worship if you have experienced one or more of the following:
 - You have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID19 in the past 14 days.
 - You are experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat.
 - You have had a fever in the past 48 hours.
 - You have experienced a new loss of taste or smell.
 - You have experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
- A trained usher team will be available to assist you and your family as we worship following these new guidelines. We ask that you please follow the guidance of these worship assistants.
- Access to the CLC will be through any of the three parking lot access doors on the west and north sides of the CLC. These are the Fellowship Hall, the CLC entrance (with wheelchair ramp), and the double-door entrance on the north side of the building near the trash dumpster.)
- Hand sanitizing stations will be set-up at each entrance to the CLC and all worshippers should sanitize their hands upon entering.
- There will be no hymnals, attendance pads, or offering plates used or distributed during these services. There will be a special time during each service for worshippers (maintaining 6' of separation) to come forward and place their tithes and offerings in collection plates at the front of the worship center. We will continue to celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month using the special communion kits that have been used during drive through communion services. These kits will not be touched by anyone other than the person receiving the elements.
- There will be no nursery -- HOWEVER, families with small children (Including babies) are encouraged to please come to worship and bring your entire family. There will be areas in the rear of the CLC and in rooms just off the main floor for parents who feel they need special space with babies if such is needed.
- There will be no coffee or doughnuts available until further notice.
- Chairs in the CLC will be grouped to accommodate individuals and families of varying sizes. Only families should sit in groupings of chairs. Individuals should sit in single chairs maintaining the recommended 6' of separation. This is important and we ask for everyone's understanding and cooperation in this regard. Hopefully, the need for these guidelines will soon be over.
- When each worship service is concluded, ushers will dismiss those in attendance by rows. Individuals will exit the building maintaining six feet of separation. We recognize that under normal circumstances, this is a time for fellowship, greeting and visiting. However, under these circumstances, there should be no congregating in the building or in the parking lot. This is to assure compliance with the important guidelines designed to protect the health of everyone - particularly our most vulnerable members.
- Please be assured we will be doing everything during the week to make certain the church has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized to facilitate a safe and healthy environment for worship.