

Worship Together – Plan Announcement

Grace Baptist Reopening Path

Grace Baptist family and friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, participation in our online ministries and reaching out to each other to care for one another since March. We desire to see one another and have some normalcy, especially in our worship as a church. Our deacons and other leaders have invested many hours into webinars, study, consulting professionals and working together to come up with a patient progressive plan to Worship Together.

Our recent survey was so helpful to hear from you. Thank you for your supportive and constructive comments helping us to “hear” our GBC body. Our church body is diverse in its perspective and personal situation in response to the COVID virus, and these differences are real and important to each one. Many want to return, and want to do it with caution and wisdom. We have worked to develop a plan that responds our community and our church body. In our plans, we want to seek a one minded unity around **Worship, Love and Outreach**.

There are three priorities we want to emphasize in the coming months in all we do – **Worship, Love and Outreach**. These priorities will impact each decision.

- **Worship** - To glorify God and to make His Word known to each other is our First Priority. We need to plan to provide opportunity for each one to Worship Together whether online (remotely) and progressively in person.
- **Love** - In our Love for Christ, we must practice love together. This includes protection, listening, humility, patience, and encouragement to grow up together in Christ and His Word.
- **Outreach** – We must continue to intentionally be thinking about our present and long term witness to our community who are lost or scattered. This involves a God honoring response to our government and many who live around us.

Re-opening public worship: June 7th with three Worship options to include everyone.

- In Person: 9-10am,
- In Person: 11-12pm
- Remotely: On our Live Stream & Archive. The Live Stream will be in the 9 am service.

Our Worship Together Plans as we Return

1. GBC Leadership Preparations

- Reduce touch on Surfaces - Pre-open frequently used doors. Offering will be received in a special stationary box. Sermon notes and other paper handouts will be available on a table for self pick up.

- Seating arranged to keep proper distancing with ushers assisting with seating to maximize our seating capacity. Dismissal and flow will be coordinated to reduce gathered crowds.
- Cleaning of surfaces and high touch areas between each service. Our building team has upgraded our ventilation system to improve the air quality.
- Areas prepared for nursing mothers & diaper changing,
- All ministry leaders for each service will wear a mask excluding up front speaking. They will also participate in pre-screening health symptoms.
- Morning Services will be 60 minutes in length to reduce time in the building and allow for cleaning in between services.

2. Congregation Preparation for Worship Together

- Personal Pre-Screening - Check yourself and household for common virus symptoms. If you or a close family member are ill, please use our online service.
- Family Units seated together- Without separate classes and children's ministries at first, family groups will sit together in the auditorium. Our ushers will assist in seating for maximum seating with space in between groups.
- Masks are strongly recommended for those able to do so (we will have extra available)
- Practice care and love with proper distancing in our greeting and fellowship. We encourage limited group visiting in indoor areas a crowd could grow like hallways and our foyer.
- Limited bathroom use is requested to help with cleaning and reduce crowds in a smaller area.
- Music is an important part of our worship and our music ministry will continue to record songs ahead of time. We can respond in our hearts and physically to music worship in many ways. To reduce potential virus spread to others, a mask should be worn when singing out loud in our worship together in the auditorium.

3. Worship Service Experience - We look forward to the joy of worshipping our Lord together though there are changes to adjust to at this time. We understand that many will wait to come to a public service, and so we will continue to work on quality online service presentation and remote encouragement ministry.

- Help us plan for adequate space for our regular attenders and visitors that join us! A reservation email, similar to our recent survey will be sent early next week to our regular attenders asking you to choose the service you will plan to attend as you are able on Sundays. Please respond quickly so we can plan well for seating in each service for all who attend.

Praying for God's Blessing on Future Progression

We are starting with a simple Sunday worship service, and each new step will take careful planning and preparation. In the future, we are already working on plans to add:

- In service younger child care ministry
- Small group meeting during the week for teens and adults
- Other gathering and outreach ideas

We know as we patiently work together and we learn more, we will be able to improve our first plans to remain committed to our Worship, Love and Outreach priorities and practically improve our protocol applications.

Invitation to All to help us continue to Worship Together, Love each other and Reach our Community

- We need everyone to pray and speak encouraging wisdom together for our leaders for thousands of Gospel ministries across Ohio. We are working for something that we have not experienced before.
- We need willing and available servants. Those who are able and willing can serve as friendly Greeters for a service, Ushers & assistants, Medical screening for workers, and part of a cleaning team after the service.
- Encourage and build up. Many are experiencing loss and change in their lives. Keep calling and serving one another! Many are doing so well in our body on this.

Grace family, we will have more detailed information next week. This is meant to help us to begin the process of thinking about a new process and praying for God's work. Our pastors and deacons welcome your feedback and questions as we prepare.

Seeking after God's glory together