

## ***Regathering for Worship*** **Guidelines for a Safe Return to Church**

*As our congregation comes together for Sunday morning worship, the following guidelines will help us gather in an atmosphere of love for God and love for one another.*

The church will be opened at 10:30 AM. There will NOT be any Sunday School classes meeting. During the worship service, we will NOT be having Children's Church or our nursery ministry (The nursery space itself will be available for any parent who may need to step out of the service to attend to their child's needs.). All children are welcome, and may remain with the congregation for the entire worship service.

Primary access to the building will be through the main entrance. The office entrance will also be available as necessary for individuals with accessibility needs. In addition to our sanctuary space, seating will be available in the fellowship hall, where there will be an audio feed of the worship service. After the service, those sitting in the sanctuary should exit through the lobby, and those sitting in the fellowship hall should exit through the office hallway. Those who would like to visit with one another should do so outside.

Everyone entering the building should wear a mask. The only exception will be infants and children under age 2. During the service, only those speaking or singing from the pulpit or the front of the sanctuary will be permitted to remove their mask, if they choose to do so.

Everyone is expected to practice social distancing during the worship service. Every other pew will be closed, and everyone is asked to sit with his or her family members. Everyone should sit six feet apart from all non-family members. The church ushers will be present to assist in helping everyone practice social distancing in the church facilities.

Everyone is asked to refrain from physical contact such as handshaking, hugging, or other forms of Christian greeting/fellowship.

During the worship service, we will minimize the use of printed and hand-held materials. Tithes and offerings will be received at collection boxes as you exit the church. For those who would like to give but are unable to attend worship at this time, contributions can be mailed to the church address (7345 Indian Head Hwy. Bryans Road, MD 20616).

Monitoring your own health is an important part of your well-being, as well as our congregation's safety. Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, or who has been in contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, should not attend the service for 14 days. Anyone who has a pre-existing health condition or feels uncomfortable about coming to church at this time may also choose to remain at home. We understand the importance of being reunited with one another, face to face, in worship. But we also want to be mindful and respectful of those who may not be prepared to return to church immediately. Keep in mind that the audio recording of each Sunday's sermon, along with sermon notes, will still be posted on the church's website following the conclusion of the service.

The care of our facilities is a critical part of a safe return to church. The church building will be cleaned and sanitized every week. Hand sanitizer will be placed in locations throughout the building.

*Thank you for your prayerfulness, patience, and cooperation as we get ready to come together to give praise and thanks to God for his faithfulness and love.*

*Pastor Kevin and the Deacons of Grace Baptist Church*