

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI

Dear Church Family,

It seems as if it has been a lifetime since we were all together in Worship, Bible Study, and Fellowship. Our pastor, staff, deacons, and others have been in prayer for you and your families, and if you are like us, we long to be together once again. Covid-19 has brought a great deal of uncertainty into the lives of people, our community, our nation, and world, but it has not caught our great God by surprise. The Lord is faithful and as Bro. Brent has been preaching recently – “The Lord is Good.”

Joshua 3:5 says, “*Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.*” (NIV). Like Joshua, our tomorrow is coming soon, and we are looking forward to seeing the amazing things the Lord desires to do. It appears that restrictions on gatherings are beginning to ease somewhat and with that we want to share some pertinent information with you as to our “reopening.”

The first phase will be Sunday, May 24, 2020. Our plan is to have “Church at the Pavilion” at 10:30 a.m. Bro. Brent, Barry, and others will be leading us from the pavilion, and we will be parking in the field below it and in the Pavilion Parking lot extending to the main parking lot if necessary. Of course, this is contingent upon cooperating weather. If weather is a problem or grass-parking is impossible, then we will plan to do Online Services as we have been doing. We will notify you of any changes through our website and social media as soon as we are able.

Our second phase will be on Sunday, May 31, 2020. Our plan is to meet inside our church facilities for Worship only at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. We are not certain as yet concerning the recommended social distancing requirements and allowable participant numbers. Either way, we feel comfortable that our facility is large enough to accommodate various sized groups in different locations throughout our church. The typical crowd size at 8:00 is usually much smaller and we are encouraging our senior adults to possibly attend this service.

Our 10:30 service is being organized in this way depending on the recommended numbers for larger gatherings:

1. Our pastor and worship team will be leading from the stage and we will have limited numbers in the sanctuary. Please plan to sit in family groups.
 - a. Note: After the 8:00 Sanctuary service, the Sanctuary will be cleaned, sanitized, and wiped down in preparation for the 10:30 Service.
2. Provisions are being made to provide worship in the Fellowship Hall and the Family Life Center through a Video/Broadcast Feed from the Sanctuary. A staff member, deacons, and others will be in various locations to assist in those areas as needed.
3. The services will also be recorded to broadcast later, and we will live-stream as well for those unable or uncomfortable to attend at this time.
4. A nursery will not be provided for the first few weeks back, but young children and their parents are encouraged to sit together and enjoy the worship and time of fellowship.

Because this is such a fluid situation, we will send out additional information the week before May 31 to share guidelines and updates as to our facility usage and preparation for worship.

On another note, many have asked about the Family Life Center and being able to use the fitness and workout facilities. As we anticipate reopening on May 31, we believe it will be fine to open the FLC on June 1 with limited participation. Aerobics will be able to begin but will be limited to 10 or less. The same can be said for the fitness room. The week before May 31, we will have a system in place to assist with the smooth transition and reopening for our Family Life Center facilities. At present, there will be no nursery for Aerobics. Please continue to be patient with us as we work through these changes together.

Because there has been such disruption, we want to share with you some additional updates:

1. Our ministers are in the process of planning and coordinating ministry activities for the summer. We should have additional information for you regarding on-going ministries by May 31.
2. Sunday School will not resume until the earliest in late-June or early July. This will allow us to concentrate on Worship and helping to coordinate a new way of doing things. We are continuing to form a plan as to how we will carry out Sunday School when we do begin meeting.
3. We will still be providing online Bible Study and Sunday School opportunities in the meantime.
4. VBS (scheduled for June 1 - June 4) – postponed indefinitely.
5. Youth “Generate Camp” (June 14-19) has been cancelled.
6. A decision on M-4 Camp will be made by June 1.
7. Other Wednesday & Sunday ministry updates will be shared later.

Financial Giving Update

\$30,632.81	Weekly Budget Needs
\$551,390.58	Offerings Needed to Date (through May 8)
\$525,926.87	Offerings Given to Date (through May 8)
\$2,340.00	Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
\$6,865.00	2020 Church Facility Improvement Gifts
\$9,066.00	“Christ-Centered Cross” Given to Date

Thank you to our wonderful church family for your continued generosity to the church and to His work. Even though we are a bit behind for the year in our “budget-giving,” most of that was due to the month of March when the crisis began and there was uncertainty with our services and how to give. April was a strong giving month and continues to be strong so far in the month of May. During these days, our expenses have also remained low. Over the years, the Lord has wonderfully blessed our church financially and we are in a position to continue to minister and meet needs. Thank you for being so faithful during difficult days. You are such a blessing. As you continue giving, there are numerous opportunities available:

1. You can come by the church office and drop your gifts off.
2. You can mail them to: Emmanuel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 908, Grenada, MS 38902
3. You can also give online by going to www.emmanuelbapt.org and follow the links.

As you have read over all this information, please be aware that anything can happen, and plans may have to be altered. We will keep you updated as well as we can and will post any changes to our website and to social media. Feel free to call the church office (662-226-5316) if you have any questions.

Your safety is of utmost importance to us and we will do everything that we can to provide the best and safest environment that ministers and encourages all of our members and guests. As we move forward, there is still some uncertainty, but this is not an impossible situation. We have a God who precisely knows everything, knows every step, and He can be trusted. As Adrian Rogers used to say, “There is never any panic any heaven, only plans.”

Because He Lives,
Bro. Brent, Ministers, & Deacons

***“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19***