

Dear First Southern Baptist Church,

After much thought and prayer, the Discipleship Council would like to inform you that we will resume meeting together in person this Sunday, June 7, 2020. Lycoming County is set, per Governor Wolf's recommendation, to enter the green phase which will reduce even further the restrictions placed on gatherings. Still, we want to be cautious and wise concerning re-gathering to ensure the safety and comfort of those who are most susceptible and vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. We recognize that there are a number of diverse opinions related to the pandemic and government guidelines and we are asking each of you to respect one another in Christian love, being kind and gracious in your conversations. To that end we will proceed with meeting under the following criteria:

- For the foreseeable future, we will not have Foundations.
- For the sake of everyone's safety, the doors will be locked until 10am. We will have one service at our regularly scheduled time, 10:15am. The seating will be spaced appropriately to accommodate social distancing.
- The back door, by the children's area, will remain locked at all times and we ask that you enter through the main door under the awning. A greeter will meet you there. The doors will be propped open to avoid contact. There will be no bulletins and the information that it would have contained will be on the screen prior to the service starting time of 10:15am. Approximately 5-10 minutes after the start of the service the door will be locked for security concerns; however, a greeter will be available to let you in should you arrive late.
- You are strongly encouraged to observe social distancing practices while attending, including limiting all physical contact with those outside your family group such as not shaking hands or hugging, etc.
- We recommend the wearing of masks, but we will not require them. Please use your own discretion.
- If you are feeling sick or unwell, please stay home.
- We will not be having any separate childcare, nursery, or children's church and encourage families to feel free to have their children join us for the worship service. We will arrange the rear overflow areas with chairs and tables to accommodate families. Parents, feel free to bring crayons, toys, etc. to help during the service. We're a big family and we love your family, so please don't feel stressed or constrained to enjoy our worship time with your whole family.
- We will not be brewing and serving coffee and the drinking fountains will be closed to avoid potential spread. Feel free to bring a drink from home if this is a necessity.
- We will have disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer on hand for your use. The building will be cleaned regularly on Saturday before our gathering.
- We have made some changes to the service.
 - We will end with a shorter period of worship singing as this is potentially the greatest opportunity to spread air-borne illness.
 - The offering plates will not be passed. They will be located at the front and you can drop your offering in before or after the service.
 - We will refrain from serving the Lord's Supper, as well as any food serving or meal preparation for the foreseeable future.

- With all of these precautions, the Discipleship Committee will continue to evaluate and make adjustments based on the rise and fall of cases in our area, as well as with recommendations from the governor.
- After the service ends, we ask that you leave the building promptly and enjoy conversations in the open air of the parking lot.
- As you are probably aware, we missed a regularly scheduled member's meeting for church business in April. The meeting scheduled for June 14th has been rescheduled to June 28th to allow some more time for members to adjust and grow comfortable meeting in person. Please plan to join us after the service on the 28th to briefly discuss the foyer project, the budget, and other quick updates.
- Finally, we recognize that many of you will not be comfortable gathering at this time, especially with these restrictions. If you have any concerns or trepidation about joining us for the family worship gathering, please feel released and free to stay home. We will continue to post the week's message on the website, after the service, for you to participate. While we value the commandment of Scripture to "not forsake meeting together" (Hebrews 10:25), we do not want you to feel conscience bound to be in the building while there are still necessary social restrictions in place. Feel free to exercise your own discretion and do what is in the best interest of you and your family.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Thank you for your prayers and patience in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bryan McClelland
First Southern Baptist Church, Williamsport, PA