

MT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

5209 FM 959
Beckville, Texas 75631



May 28, 2020

Dear Congregation,

After much prayer and several meetings to discuss how we should relaunch the church, it has been decided that we will return to in-person services Sunday, **June 7th, 2020**. There will be an early service for those that are **at-risk at 9:30am** and a service for **everyone else at 11:00 am**. We will **not have Sunday school, children services or nursery volunteers** on Sundays and we will **not have Youth, Bible Studies, or Evening services** for the time being, but we pray we are able to add these additional services back as soon as we can. We are very excited to get back to our “new normal” at church and can’t wait to get to see everyone and; however, we do need to share with you some of our new guidelines and things we are implementing to keep everyone as safe as possible. We also want to thank everyone who participated in our *Relaunch Survey*. Your feedback was a very important part of getting us back together!

We encourage anyone who does not feel comfortable returning at this time, to stay home and watch services online. We will attempt to go live on Facebook with the service, and we will also be recording the services to upload to YouTube and Facebook later in the day in case internet service is interrupted. **We ask that anyone who has been in contact with someone who is symptomatic, or who is not feeling well themselves to stay home to keep our church family safe.** Upon your entry we will have signs up about symptoms as well as **touch-free thermometers for symptoms/temperature check**. This is completely voluntary, so please let us know if you do not wish to be checked. **Each entrance/exit will also have a table with touch-free hand sanitizer, touch-free tithe/offering box and ushers to help direct your way.**

We want to ensure you that we are doing everything we can to keep every one of our church families and visitors safe. We are cleaning the church between services; including but not limited to, wiping pews down between service, using disinfectant sprays on cloth pews and chairs, wiping down all hard surfaces including door handles/knobs and restrooms. **Masks are encouraged (especially for our at-risk service at 9:00am) but not required.** We do suggest everyone bring a mask in case they need it.

As we return to our new normal, we encourage everyone to **avoid physical contact** with others by **refraining from** shaking hands and hugging and maintaining a safe distance between you and other households. To cut down on cross contamination, **we suggest you bring your own supplies for your family in your pew (hand sanitizer, pen/paper, tissue etc.).** If you have little ones, we suggest you make sure any **toys/activities are bagged** – and that you leave with the same items you came with. We are keeping the pews free of items and have collected all bibles, hymn books, blankets etc. and placed them in the VBS storage room for the time being.

To avoid crowding or gathering which might make it harder to keep the recommended six feet between households, **we will be using only 2 entrances/exits and the doors will be propped open.** If you normally sit on the **left-hand side of the church** (with the sound booth) – we ask that you use the double doors that are for funerals/musicians on the side by the parking lot and playground. (If it is raining – this group will use the covered entrance at the back of the church). If you normally sit on the **right-hand side of the church**, we ask that you use the front entrance (this entrance will also work as well for you if it is raining).

To keep everyone six feet apart we ask that you space yourself by household as you enter. We encourage families from one household to sit together. We will be marking **every other pew** off to be skipped. If you are a small group of 2 or 3, and do not take up a whole pew, we encourage you to skip the section between you and another small group on the other end of the pew to allow for the six feet between you. We will have the areas marked and we will have ushers to assist in seating you accordingly. After the service, **we will dismiss by rows** from the same door you entered. *We ask that if you wish to fellowship, for your health/safety and the safety of others, that you do so outside and maintain six feet between your households.*

There will be at least one of each (men/women's) **restrooms open** and there will be disinfecting wipes and touch-free hand sanitizer available for those that are open. *We encourage everyone to wipe down areas that they come in contact with before and after use.*

We will have **areas outside of the sanctuary** available for overflow, or if anyone needs to step out of the service for any reason. Rooms and/or tables that are available for you use will be marked with **double-sided signs** on them. These signs will **indicate** whether that table or areas has been disinfected and is ready for use or if it has been used and needs to be disinfected before using again. If you use one of our pre-disinfected tables/rooms **please flip the sign** over to the corresponding side, so that our volunteers know to disinfect that area again for use. **If you need to use the nursery**, please follow the guidelines posted, the nursery and any other areas around the church will have supplies for your use.

We pray that you know how important each and every one of you are to our church and our ministry. Each and every one of us has had our lives interrupted in different ways during this time, and many of us have experienced some great losses, but we have faith that God will use all of our trials and experiences during these past months to work things out for His purpose, His Glory and His Good!

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.” ***Romans 8:28***

Trusting in His Love & Care,
Your Servants at Mt. Zion Baptist Church