

Oak Grove Baptist Church

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Dear Church Family at Oak Grove Baptist Church...

Pastor Jason here. Pray this note finds each of you well.

After much prayer, planning and counsel, **we are planning to re-open our church building this Sunday June 7th for our 11am** "on campus service." Doors will be open for this gathering at 10:45am. We will also continue to post the "online" service each week (each Sunday) for those that would prefer to stay home at this time. If you **aren't comfortable attending or feel sick** (have symptoms), do not hesitate to **remain at home** and view the service "streaming" on your electrical device. We will save a seat for you when you are able to return. The online ministry has proven to be invaluable as an outreach to those in and outside our community and has kept many of us connected during this pandemic. You will be able to continue to view these services online as they are posted by going to our website at www.oakgrovekm.com and clicking on the links provided.

Most church goers are excited with the prospect of returning to "in person" corporate worship. We have missed gathering with each other in person as the Body of Christ. While others are somewhat fearful and understandably cautious with meeting with groups outside the CDC's recommendations as it relates to the corona virus. To that end, we have attempted to take what we know & provide "**best practice**" **parameters** to those who will attend our on campus gathers. A "**tutorial**" has been produced/recorded to assist congregation members as we re-enter the campus. Go to: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYJuGrUgfRqIXbnlKG-5o5JjiaCFhv9_/view?usp=sharing if you have not viewed it via email, Facebook, or church website.

At this time, you will note several **suggestions/requirements asked of those who will attend** these services as it relates to: how to greet others, parking suggestions, seating requirements, protective materials available to those who choose to use them, service time adjustments and postponements, ministries that will or will not currently be available, how to give offering, and the like as we attempt to provide the healthiest, and safest worship experience possible as we return to campus. The fellowship at OGBC, along with local, state, and national requirements, will not require masks to be worn at this time, even though it is considered "best practice" in many circles. Anyone choosing to bring their own mask or feel led to use those masks made available at the church are encouraged to do so. It cannot be expressed enough to our regular congregation members to help provide leadership as it pertains to the safety we show to others, including our guests who we hope will feel led to join us for worship.

By modeling these suggestions, I believe **we are attempting to** obey God's greatest law (Mark 12:30-31) and are indeed practicing the golden rule (Luke 6:31) as responsible citizens of our community. Overtime, it is our prayer that many of these suggestions will cease to be necessary, but until then we are asking you to view the tutorial, show good judgment, and to be good stewards of those around you. We thank you ahead of time for your support!

Also... **other notes worth noting** as we return to a "partial" re-opening schedule... At this time, during the a.m. Sunday service, we will not have "scheduled" **Sunday school** classes at 10am. Those groups already meeting off campus should continue to meet as your group chooses. This is an attempt to limit close quarters gatherings. All class teachers discuss any concerns you have with our Sunday school director. We will continue to work with every group (re-evaluate) that wants to modify their meetings until we are able to have regular classes meet in their regular locations. There will be no **children's church** during the service and no scheduled nursery workers. (To be re-evaluated) Parents may use the nursery to change diapers, feed, etc, but no workers will be assigned to drop off the kiddos... **The choir** will not be asked to lead worship at this time. Our music minister will begin getting with our worship leaders and determining the best course of action to meet in the future. (Be ready!!!) **Youth & children's meetings** will continue to be "online" throughout the week. Our children's and youth minister will continue to meet with these groups and will adjust times and locations appropriately. There will be no **Sunday night services** through the month of June. We will re-evaluate in July. Our contracted cleaning service cleans twice a week and it has been determined that it is best practice to have everything fully cleaned by a professional between services. **We will start Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting starting June 10th at 6pm.** Much like the format for Sunday morning services, this gathering will be in the sanctuary and will need to be family friendly for those attending. There will be *no additional children, youth, or choir gatherings at this time on Wednesday night until further notice.* It goes without saying, all on campus meeting times remain subject to change. As we continue to re-evaluate all our gatherings, we are committed as a fellowship to be led by the Spirit, make informed decisions (collecting data), while attempting to seek God's face and discern His leading.

I know this is a lot to take in, however **it is exciting** to think about **coming back** together in the same building and **worshipping together**. By taking such measures and recognizing everyone is at a different stage in handling all that has transpired over the last few months, perhaps we can show wisdom and be worshipful at the same time. As things change, we will continue to keep you informed. Again, **please check out the tutorial on our website** so that you will be prepared to re-enter the building. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your deacon, the church office, our staff, lay leaders, or myself and we will attempt to assist as much as possible. Thanks again for your patience and prayers! We will either see you online or in person for worship this Sunday.

Be blessed and a blessing to all God brings your way...

In Christ,
Pastor J