

Ebenezer Baptist Church Reopening Strategic Plan

1. **Seating:** Seating will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we have reached 50% capacity in the sanctuary, the C.K. Jones Fellowship Hall will be used to seat the remainder of persons desiring to be physically present. We will stream the 11am service live on the screen in the fellowship hall.
2. **8 AM Service:** In an effort to safely accommodate all who wish to worship face-to-face, we will be offering an 8 am worship service. The same procedures will be followed for both services in terms of registration, seating, safety, etc. For those who still do not feel safe to return, we will continue to stream the 11am service via Facebook, our website, and YouTube.
3. **Masks:** In order to prevent the spread of germs and other contagions, it is mandatory that all worshippers wear a face mask or PPE device.
4. **Other Worshippers:** If you have friends, relatives, or co-workers who would like to attend, please inform them of our stated procedures. These procedures will be posted on our website: www.ebcvaworship.org.
5. **Temperature Checks:** Upon entering the facility, you will be asked to submit to the no-touch forehead temperature check. Once you are cleared by the screener, an Usher will lead you to your designated seat. Once seated, please remain in your seat until the worship celebration has ended, unless you need to excuse yourself to the restroom or leave the sanctuary for personal reasons.
6. **Rest Rooms:** Two restrooms will be made available, and our church sexton will be on duty to clean, sanitize, and disinfect the restrooms after each use. Members attending service in the sanctuary will have access to the sanctuary vestibule restroom, and members attending service in the fellowship hall will have access to the restrooms closest to the fellowship hall. Handicap-accessible restrooms are located near the fellowship hall.
7. **Offering:** Our offering will not be done as usual due to our circumstances, but the offering will be received by the Trustees at the entrance to the sanctuary or fellowship hall. Thus, we are asking that all persons please come with envelopes prepared with cash or checks already written and ready to be placed in the offering baskets upon entering the sanctuary or fellowship hall. The option of sowing financial seeds through Givelify is still an option that will be available to everyone.
8. **Communion:** As you know, the first Sunday of the month is Communion Sunday at our church. All worshipers will pick up their communion elements as they enter the sanctuary or fellowship hall. The elements will be placed on a table at the main entrance to the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.
9. **Baptism:** Our baptism will not be held until the “Social Distancing” ban has been lifted completely.
10. **Transportation Bus Ministry:** Persons who would like to ride the bus to and from church must call in and request a “pick-up” as usual. You will be required to wear a mask.

11. **Benediction:** Once the closing prayer and benediction has been given, please remain seated and our Usher's Ministry will come and dismiss the congregation one row at a time to ensure "social distancing."
12. **Hugging & Hand Shaking:** Until further notice we are asking our church family to refrain from hugging & hand shaking during worship to ensure that everyone's boundaries are respected and all worshippers are safe until the "social distancing" ban has been lifted.
13. **Until Further Notice:** Our Sunday School, Bible Study, and Youth Church will be open on a limited basis and will also be virtual/on-line.
14. **Random Visitors:** We realize that we may receive random visitors who will not have received this information; thus, we are asking that you please share this information freely with your family, relatives, friends, and co-workers.
15. **Membership Concerns or Feedback:** If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding the aforementioned procedures outlined in this document PLEASE do not hesitate to call or email the following people:
 - a. The Chair of the Deacons Board-Robert West,
 - b. The Co-chair of the Deacons Board-Donald Blake,
 - c. The chair and co-chair of the Trustee Board-Earnest Nimmo, and Shirley Johnson,
 - d. Any Ministry Leader, or
 - e. Yours truly.

I am excited about returning to worship, and fellowshiping (at a safe distance) will all of you. May God continue to bless you and heaven continue to smile upon you!!

Yours in Christ,

R. Perez Gatling

R. Perez Gatling, Pastor
Ebenezer Baptist Church Virginia Beach, VA