



**BAYSIDE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

3009 EAST CHESAPEAKE BEACH ROAD • P.O. BOX 700 • CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MD 20732 • 410-257-0712

**Bayside Baptist Church**  
**“Phased Re-Opening Plan”**  
**May 28, 2020**

**Letter and Information from Pastor Glenn**

On May 15, 2020, Governor Hogan announced that Maryland’s “Stay at Home Order” had been lifted and that certain businesses could begin a “Phase 1” reopening process. As part of this announcement, the Governor directed that churches could begin to re-assemble, as long as they could do so safely and at 50% or less capacity. Obviously, this was welcomed news by pastors, church leaders and all of us who have longed to reassemble back together again.

While this announcement gave us the opportunity to start meeting together again on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the staff and elders decided to begin a slow, phased in process of re-opening Bayside Baptist Church. This is possible because of your continued faithfulness to worship together as “One Body in One Spirit”, no matter where you are. I am grateful for the opportunity that we have been given to worship together online and to have continued access to bible studies for our children, youth and adults through our church website and social media platforms. Thank you to all of our volunteers who continue to help make this possible!

As we implement the “Bayside phased re-opening” plan, I ask that you continue to pray for the staff, elders and church leadership as we move forward in the name of Jesus Christ. There has been much prayer, discussion and thought put into this plan. The bible instructs us to seek Godly wisdom in all things (Proverbs 2:6; 3:13; 4:5). I am thankful for the Godly men and women who have prayed and given advice throughout this process.

One of the many benefits of being part of the Baptist Convention of Maryland Delaware (BCMD) and the Potomac Baptist Association (PBA) is having the opportunity to consult with fellow pastors and state leaders about this process. While things may be different in various counties and regions throughout the state, one thing we have in common is the desire to Glorify Christ, fulfill the Great Commission (Matt.28) and to re-assemble in the best possible fashion.

I am also thankful for the health care professionals who have offered advice and who have established safety and well-being guidelines for churches to consider. Please keep them in prayer as they stand at the front lines of this Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please also continue to be in prayer for our local, state and national leaders. While we may not always agree with decisions and policies that are made, the Lord calls on us to pray for them and to submit to their leadership (Romans 13). They have our best interests at heart and are doing what they can under extreme conditions to keep all citizens safe and well.

This week, our nation will most likely pass the 100,000-person death mark for the COVID-19 virus. This is a sad milestone and a stark reminder that every single life is precious! Let us never lose site, or grow numb, to those families who have been impacted by this tragedy. Please take a moment today to pause and pray for those families, friends and neighbors who have lost loved ones during this season. Let us also pray for healing of those that have been infected with COVID-19, and for those scientists and doctors who are working on a vaccination so that this disease can eventually be eradicated.

As we move forward with our phased reopening plans, there is much to consider. As you read through the attached information, you may have questions, some of which we hope to answer in the Facts and Question (FAQ) section of the reopening plan. I am also sure there will be different opinions on how we should or should not go about this process. During this season I have found that if you have 10 people in a room talking about COVID-19, you will have 10 different opinions. So, with that said, and before you read to details of Bayside's re-opening plan, please understand my heart.

This has been a difficult season for us all. I recently heard a pastor say that it will be "more difficult to re-open the church than it was to close the church in the first place." While there is some truth in that statement, one of the hardest things that I have ever had to do in ministry was to make the decision to cancel on-site worship services and bible studies during this season. Not that it wasn't the right thing to do – it was. But not being able to worship, study, serve and fellowship with the Body of Christ – face to face – is hard. Why? Because I miss you all – BIG TIME! We were created by God to be in fellowship with one another!

My heart desires to see you, to talk to you, to worship with you and to serve our Savior Jesus Christ alongside of you! Hebrews 10:25 speaks great truth to this – especially now. **"Let us not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."** What this means is that we should all desire to worship and fellowship together on a regular basis. What this does not mean is that we do that at the expense of safety and those who are most vulnerable.

As we begin to reassemble back together, each individual and each family should make a personal decision as to when you are ready to attend on site services. Please know there is no one – this pastor included - who will think differently of you if your decision is to wait. If you are in a vulnerable population group, then we encourage you to carefully consider your decision as to when you will return to the building. (Vulnerable population groups are defined on the attached plan.)

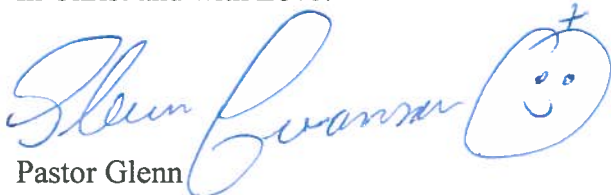
In the same way, if you are generally in good health, do not suffer from any COVID or flu-like symptoms and have already been out and about in the general public, etc, then come on to church. As Christians, gathering together at church should be the first place that we desire to return to, not the last. And while we are thankful for the opportunity to continue livestreaming our worship services online, my prayer is that, unless otherwise prohibited by personal circumstances, that we would not use technology, TV and/or radio as a convenient excuse not to attend on-site services.

Finally, in ALL things let us remember to treat one another with Christian love and respect (John 15:12; Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:10). Our desire should always be unity in the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 3:12-14; Psalm 133:1). Let us always remember that we are Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20) and that we are to be HIS hands and feet (1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 10:15).

At the same time, we need to be aware that our adversary, Satan, desires to stir up controversy and divide us (Luke 11:17). Things like wearing a mask/not wearing a mask, where to sit/not sit, where to stand/not stand, whether to attend/not attend, etc, should not divide us. The world is watching us church. Your family is watching. Your friends are watching. Your co-workers and classmates are watching. They are watching to see how we Christians conduct ourselves "For Such A Time As This."

My prayer is that we will demonstrate that Christ is living in us by loving others as Christ loved us! May we be an example of our Savior Jesus Christ in all that we say and do, and may others come to know HIM through our testimony. I love you, miss you and look forward to this gradual reopening and to the reassembly of the Body of Christ at Bayside Baptist Church.

In Christ and with Love!



Pastor Glenn  
1 Corinthians 10:31 (D.I.G.G)