



## **Phased Reopening Plan Starting: Sunday, June 7, 2020**

### **Summary of Contents:**

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Introduction and Summary:        | Page 2 |
| Best Practice for Health Safety: | Page 3 |
| Worship and Bible Study Options: | Page 4 |

- **Two “family style” onsite Worship Services starting 6/7/2020**
  - **9:00 – 10:00 AM (Doors Open at 8:45 AM)**
  - **10:45 – 11:45 AM (Doors Open at 10:30 AM)**
  - **Phase 1 limited capacity due to social distancing protocol**
  - **Preregistration information. Recommended – Not Required**
- **Livestream worship available through website, Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube**
  - **10:45 – 11:45 AM**
- **Adult, Student, Children’s bible study posted online until further notice.**
  - **Children’s Worship posted online until further notice.**

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Bayside Baptist “Four Phase Plan”: | Page 5 |
|------------------------------------|--------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Facts and Questions: | Pages 6-8 |
|----------------------|-----------|



# Introduction

On Monday, March 16, 2020, the church staff, elders and leadership made the decision to temporarily suspend public worship and bible study gatherings in favor of worshipping and studying online. This decision was based on public health concerns related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and Governor Larry Hogan's (Maryland) executive order that churches limit their gatherings to 10 or less people. Of course, when the initial decision was made, there was no indication that it would be over eleven weeks before we could physically meet back together again.

Since that time, the pandemic has grown in ways that few imagined, and restrictions on in-person gatherings have been extended several times. The Bayside staff, elders, worship and media teams have responded to these restrictions by conducting livestream worship services each Sunday. In addition, many of our ministry team leaders are posting bible studies and conducting "Zoom" ministry meetings online. Each Wednesday night, there is a time of prayer for anyone who would like to join through the "Zoom" platform.

On May 15, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan indicated that Maryland would enter Phase One of his *reopening Maryland plan*. This plan would include the easing of restrictions on churches. Thus, we believe it is time to plan a gradual, responsible and safety conscious, plan for reopening our church building. This will be done with government, CDC and other health professionals' guidelines in mind. Currently, (May 28, 2020) we are in "Phase 0" – only meeting online. On Sunday, June 7, 2020 we will transition into Phase 1 with a limited reopening of the building. Of course, the Bayside Worship Livestream will continue at 10:45 AM each Sunday, and will continue to be a viable alternative for worship. The different phases are outline on this reopening plan and can be updated based on changing health trends and guidelines.

## Summary

The Bayside Baptist Church leaders are committed to making each service the best it can be while still submitting to the larger scope of wisdom regarding in-person gatherings. Clearly, this situation is fluid, yet, in spite of the uncertainty, we have been working on a phased plan to reopen our building based on the best available information. This plan prioritizes love for our neighbors by keeping people safe (Matthew 22:39), showing proper, biblical respect for government authority (Romans 13:1), and demonstrating that we trust our Church leaders and family to make wise decisions.

There is no question that our desire is to gather in-person, but we are committed to doing so in a safe and responsible way through a phased approach. A phased transition allows for a measured and prudent conversion from the "online only era" to "in-person gatherings" across the full range of church activities. Deciding how to move through the phases is complex. Although we are monitoring the situation and working in conjunction with our state and local authorities, the reality is our Governor will establish the criteria for the transition between phases and dictate the precautions. The state's process is informed by the White House framework for a three phased approach to resuming activity. You can view that plan at the following website:

[www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#criteria](http://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#criteria).

## Best Practices for Health Safety

- **Medical professionals:** We will consult with medical professionals to develop best practices related to the health of those attending in-person worship gatherings.
- **General Guidance:** Each person has a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others. If you suspect that you or a member of your family have symptoms, stay home until the period has expired and/or testing has occurred. From the CDC -symptoms may appear **2-14 days** after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms **may** have COVID-19:

**Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fever, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat, Loss of taste or smell.**

- **Appropriate social distancing and Sanctuary Chairs:** Since the standard is 6 feet for appropriate social distancing, we will utilize that standard in calculating the distance between chairs in sanctuary. In order to abide by this standard, we have moved approximately 60% of the chairs from the worship center and now have per service capacity of 86 people. We will use our welcome center space for overflow.

We ask that no chairs be moved in the worship center. We will do our best to make sure that family groups are sitting together. For more information, please see the FAQ section of this guide.

- **COVID-19 protection:** We recommend and encourage everyone attending on-site service to wear some type of face covering. While in the worship center, face coverings/masks are recommended but not required. We will have a limited number of masks on-hand and will provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the building and at exits and entrances. For more information please see the FAQ section of this guide.
- **Discourage personal contact:** We will temporarily suspend normal greeting time before, after and between services in the worship and welcome centers. This will enable us to maintain proper social distancing protocol.
- **Clean & clean again:** Protocols will be implemented to reduce the spread of the virus throughout the building. Volunteers will clean and sanitize the worship center and common areas before, between and after services.
- **CDC Guidelines:** As the different phases unfold, we will continue to follow specific CDC guidance for all educational programming (Preschool, children, youth and adults). We encourage those with underlying health conditions to avoid in-person gatherings
- **Additional website link information:**

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html)

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

## **Worship and Bible Study Options**

### **Two on-site Worship options:**

Starting Sunday, June 7, 2020 we will begin phase 1 opening by offering two on-site, family friendly, worship services. The times will be as follows:

- **9:00 – 10:00 AM (Main church doors open at 8:45 AM)**
- **10:45 – 11:45 AM (Main church doors open at 10:30 AM)**

During Phase 1 we are asking that worship attendees remain in their vehicles until the doors open for worship. This will allow our church staff, leaders and volunteers to prepare for your arrival by making sure that proper social distancing protocol is followed, that the building is properly sanitized and that your worship experience will be as pleasant as possible.

Also, unless otherwise prohibited, we ask that you use the front church doors (nearest to worship center) for your arrival and the back-fellowship hall doors (nearest to the kitchen) for your departure. Church leaders and volunteers will be available before, during and after worship to help with any needs that you may have. For more information, please see the FAQ section of this guide.

### **On-site worship service. Pre-registration:**

So that we can properly plan for you and/or your family's onsite attendance at worship, we ask that, if possible, you let us know which service you plan on attending. Starting Monday, June 1, 2020 you can let us know your intentions (9:00; 10:45; Continue Online Worship) by using your planning center app or by clicking on the following link: <https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/events/430380>

In addition, you can send an email to our church staff or call the church office. The information is as follows:

**Email:** [kassandra.bowman@baysidebaptist.com](mailto:kassandra.bowman@baysidebaptist.com) or [joy.gaither@baysidebaptist.com](mailto:joy.gaither@baysidebaptist.com)  
**Phone:** 410-257-0712

Again, this is not a reservation or a requirement, just a request so that we can plan accordingly. We realize that there will be regular "drop-ins" as well.

### **Livestream worship service will continue: 10:45-11:45 AM**

Starting Sunday, May 31, 2020 our livestream service will be moved from 10:30 AM to 10:45 AM. This will help us prepare for June 7<sup>th</sup> when Bayside will move to two on-site services and one livestream service. Again, until further notice the new livestream service time is 10:45 AM. Those that have health issues and/or are part of the vulnerable population are encouraged to consider worshipping online during the early phases of this plan.

### **Onsite Bible Study, Children's Worship and Nursery:**

During the early phases of reopening, we will continue offering Sunday and Wednesday Bible studies online only. This includes studies for our children, students and adults. Until further notice, there will be no onsite children's worship on Sundays. Instead, we will be providing children with a "worship packet" to help them stay engaged in worship. We will continue to post the weekly children's worship message online. Our nursery will be opened, cleaned and sanitized for mothers who are nursing and for those babies who need changing.

## BAYSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH FOUR PHASE PLAN

| Information                      | PHASE ZERO<br>(Current)                   | PHASE ONE –<br>Beginning 6/7<br>(Limited)   | PHASE TWO -<br>TBD<br>(Moderated)   | PHASE THREE<br>- TBD<br>(Normal)                     |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Vulnerable Populations*          | Stay Home                                 | Individual Discretion – Recommend to Stay Home  | Individual Discretion   | Individual Discretion                                |
| Those w/Symptoms of COVID-19/Flu | Stay Home                                 | Stay Home   | Stay Home   | Stay Home  |
| Max Groups/Crowds                | 10 or less                                | 50% Capacity/<br>Reduced Seating/<br>Social Distancing                                    | Reduced Seating/<br>Social Distancing   | Normal Capacity                                      |
| Worship Services                 | Livestream/<br>Social Media               | <b>Multiple services/</b><br>Reduced Seating/<br>9:00 and 10:45<br>Livestream<br>10:45 AM | <b>Multiple services/</b><br>Reduced Seating/<br>9:00 and 10:45<br>Livestream<br>10:45 AM | Multiple Services/<br>Regular Seating/<br>Livestream |
| Bible Study and Prayer Meeting   | Online Only                               | <b>Online Only</b>  | TBD   | TBD  |
| Preschool/Children               | Online Only                               | Online Only   | Online Only   | Normal   |
| Students                         | Online Only                               | Online Only   | TBD   | Normal Activity                                      |
| Office Staff                     | Staff working.<br>Office Closed to Public | Staff working.<br>Office Closed to Public   | Normal Operation  | <b>Normal Operation</b>                              |
| Worship Team                     | 3-10 Max                                  | Limited Size  | Normal Size   | Normal Size  |
| Ministry Events                  | Cancelled                                 | Cancelled   | Some activities may be modified   | As Scheduled   |
| Restrooms                        | Closed                                    | Limited Access  | Limited Access  | Normal   |

\***Vulnerable Populations as Defined by the CDC:**

Vulnerable populations include, but is not limited to:

- Individuals 65 years old and older
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised (such as by chemotherapy or cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy)

## ***FAQ (Facts and Questions)***

As we begin this phased in approach to re-assemble on site, the following has been developed to help answer any potential questions that you may have. We realize that, as we physically regather again, this will be a different experience than what you are used to. Please have patience and understanding and in all situations, show the love of Christ to everyone. Our prayer is that these changes will only last for a short while. We will continue to trust the Lord and seek his wisdom in all things! We also encourage you to read the letter from Pastor Glenn posted with this plan and dated May 28, 2020.

### ***How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?***

We will do everything possible to utilize the CDC recommendation of 6' per person separation guideline. We have taken 60% of the chairs out in the worship center. There is now a worship capacity of 86 people. There will be sections designated for individuals, couples and families to sit in. Family units, defined as people residing in the same home, can sit together.

Please be mindful that the section(s) that you may have normally sat in pre-COVID may not be available during this time. Please also refrain from moving the chairs in the Welcome Center. They have been carefully placed to follow social distancing protocol.

### ***What if more people show up than we can accommodate in the worship center?***

We've anticipated using the Welcome Center as an overflow area. Essentially, people would have a group livestream experience there. Because we use chairs in that space, we can implement the 6' per person separation guideline fairly easily.

### ***Where do I enter and exit the building?***

In order to promote proper social distancing protocol, we will limit the access to the building. When you arrive for worship please use the main front doors only (nearest to worship center). For the 9:00 Service, doors will open at 8:45 AM. For the 10:45 service, doors will open at 10:30 AM. The building will be temporarily closed the 15 minutes between services so that our volunteers can properly clean and sanitize common areas.

When the worship service is over, we ask that, for the time being, you promptly exit the building by using the side fellowship hall door nearest the kitchen. There will be volunteers and signs to direct you. If you are elderly and/or have special needs, you will be encouraged to exit through the front doors and/or the doors nearest to the handicapped parking spaces.

All exterior and interior doors will be held open/propped open (touchless entry system) by our volunteers so that you will not need to touch the door.

## **Physical Contact (Handshakes, Hugs, etc.)**

During the early phases of reopening we ask that you refrain from shaking hands and/or hugging. An elbow bump, peace sign, nod of the head, smile and virtual hugs are all appropriate. Even Star Trek Signs are ok! 😊

## **Should I wear a mask/face covering?**

While in the worship center, mask or face coverings are recommended by not required. However, during the early phases we do ask that whenever you enter/exit the building and/or are in common areas such as the Welcome Center, bathrooms and/or hallways that you wear face coverings.

You are welcome to wear a mask, gloves and any other personal protective equipment as you wish. We will have a limited number of masks available for those who desire to wear one and do not have one available. However, we recommend that you bring a mask with you. All of our staff and volunteers will wear face coverings while in common areas. While in worship, those that are on stage signing, talking, praying, etc. will, in most cases, not wear face coverings.

## ***Will the bathrooms be open?***

Yes, but they will be limited to two persons at a time, particularly in Phase One. We will attempt to clean handles and surfaces throughout the morning. And, of course, there will be signage reminding everyone to wash their hands.

## ***Will coffee, tea, refreshment center and water fountains be open?***

No. These stations will remain temporarily closed until further notice. You are welcome to bring your own coffee, tea, etc. to worship. In addition, the CDC recommends keeping water fountains closed during this period. We will have bottle water available for anyone who wishes to have water. To help our volunteers properly clean and sanitize between services, we ask that you please properly dispose of your drink(s) when leaving the worship center.

## ***Will services and bible studies continue to be offered online?***

Yes. This has been one of the blessing that have come from this season. Our Media and Worship team has worked hard to make sure these services continue indefinitely online. Praise the Lord! Check out [www.baysidebaptist.com](http://www.baysidebaptist.com) for more information. Please also check out the RightNow Media streaming service which is available for all church members, guests and friends by contacting the church office.

## ***How will the offering be received?***

Thank you for your continued giving to the mission and ministries of Bayside Baptist Church. While this has been a challenging time to keep up with our weekly budget, God has been faithful and we are paying our expenses on time. We are also trying to complete the new Transformation Life Center and through your generosity, we hope to see that completed soon! At Bayside there are four ways to give of your tithes and offerings: Online through the church center app or website, via the mail, by texting the amount to give to 84321, or by giving in person.

Starting in phase one, we will resume onsite giving. The offering will be observed at the end of the worship service. Offering plates will not be passed. Instead, offering boxes have been placed at the entry/exit doors for your convenience. There are offering envelopes provided on the side of the box. For more information about online giving and other options, please check out our website at [www.baysidebaptist.com](http://www.baysidebaptist.com).

### ***What about Communion?***

Communion trays will not be passed during Lord Supper Sundays until further notice. When we have communion, our volunteers will provide prepackaged elements available for you to pick up as you enter the sanctuary.

### ***Will there be Children's Worship available?***

Children are an important part of our time of worship. During phase 1 and 2 we will have a "Family Friendly" worship where families sit and worship together. We will not offer a separate children's worship at this time. We will try to keep services times to approximately 60 minutes and will also provide worship packets so that children can engage and participate during worship.

We also have a children's "wobble room" available for those children/parents who just can't make it through the service. There are no staff or volunteer in this room. One parent must accompany their child(s). We are also working on having the live stream available in this room as needed.

### ***Where should I park?***

There are no current restrictions on where people can park. We request that you leave the spots closest to the main door open for the elderly and those with special needs. We are also working to have our parking team activated to help direct traffic before, during and after services. Please be mindful of social distancing while exiting cars to enter the building.

### ***What happens at the conclusion of the service?***

We know that you may want to stay and visit, (We all do). However, during the early phases of reopening we ask that you refrain from lingering in the sanctuary or common areas of the church building. Once dismissed, please make your way to the parking lot using the designated exit. Once you are in the parking lot, you can continue fellowship. If you are attending the early service, please be mindful of people coming in for the later service and the parking spots that may be needed.

### ***Who do I contact if I have other questions I need answered before returning to church?***

You are encouraged to contact one of our staff members, Pastor Glenn and/or one of our Elders if you should have any questions about the Bayside's Reopening Plan.