

Guidelines for in-person Worship Services
First Baptist Church, Ripley, Tennessee

Entrance Plan. All attendees will need to enter the building through the portico entrance or the doors directly in front of the sanctuary. A greeter, wearing a mask, will be stationed at each of these entrances to open the door for all attendees.

Temperature Checks. We will have touch free thermal thermometers at each entrance to check each attendee. Based on health care providers' recommendations, we will request that anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher not participate that morning.

Masks will be required. We realize there are different opinions about masks today, but out of respect for Governor Lee's recommendations, we will require all attendees to wear masks. Staff and worship leaders will not wear masks to lead singing or preaching, but will wear masks when not on the platform. Please bring your own mask from home if you have one, but, if not, we will have masks available on Sunday mornings.

We will continue recording our services. A recording of our Sunday worship service will be available by Monday or Tuesday.

We will utilize Facebook Live for worship services. For those who are not ready to return to our service, but would like to experience the live service (as best as possible), we will utilize Facebook Live with a phone from the front pew to alleviate some of our past FB Live issues.

Maintain social distancing in the congregation. We will arrange the congregation so families are at least 6 feet apart from other families. Every other pew will be blocked off. Staff and ushers will assist in directing traffic, while they also maintain social distancing.

Pastors and leaders will maintain appropriate social distancing. We all want to greet our attendees, shake your hands, and give you hugs. Now, however, the most loving thing we can do is keep our distance. We will greet, smile, and wave...but we will keep our distance.

Church members are encouraged to practice social distancing. Please refrain from physical greetings during the worship service.

We will not pass the offering plate. Passing any physical object (including an offering plate) around a room spreads the germs of anyone who touches the plate. We will provide offering plates at the entrances to the sanctuary, continue to offer online giving, and encourage members to mail in or drop off their tithes and offerings.

Restrooms. We encourage all attendees to avoid using the restroom during the service, but in case it is necessary, the bathroom in the office area will be open as the designated “ladies’ room” and the single stall men’s room on the first floor of the education building will be open for men. We will have sanitary wipes in each bathroom for you to use to wipe off any surface you touch while in the restroom.

Delay the choir’s return. While we appreciate our choir’s influence on our corporate worship experience, for this season we will not use the choir as it’s impossible to social distance in the choir loft. Also, in case you haven’t heard, singing spreads respiratory droplets farther and more rapidly than ordinary speech.

If you are sick...please worship online. If you are sick, please stay home and continue to worship online.

If you are uncomfortable attending our in-person gatherings, please worship online. Please don’t feel pressured to attend if you are uncomfortable or fearful to do so.

Clean. Clean. Clean. We will continue to sanitize our auditorium and bathrooms between services.