

The Banner

A BI-WEEKLY
PUBLICATION OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDLAND, TEXAS

MAY 13, 2020
VOL. 40 - NO. 34

Come in.

WE ARE

OPEN

Some Restrictions Apply

SUNDAY • MAY 17, 2020

2 LIVE SERVICES

**GUIDELINES &
PRECAUTIONS**

SENIOR SUNDAY

**HONORING OUR
H.S. GRADUATES**

From The Pastor



Dr. Darin Wood - Senior Pastor

Dear First Family,

Grace and Peace today! God bless you and your home in this challenging season! As promised, I wanted to give you the results from our recently completed survey and invite you to review them for yourself. This survey is our good-faith effort to hear your hearts and thoughts on returning to our building. It's not intended to be an exhaustive review, but we did receive 471 responses – a solid and healthy number to understand things. What you'll find is the diversity of opinion about what the next step for FBC should be and how it should look.

Here's the highlights:

- Question 1 – No consensus about when we should return.
- Question 2 – No consensus about other signals aiding our return.
- Question 3 – A consensus on protecting ourselves even at church.
- Question 4 – A clear voice that people WANT us to change things when they return to FBC.
- Question 5 – A greater willingness than I expected for returning to Sunday School. Even with that, we have no plans as of yet to return Sunday School to our schedule.
- Question 6 – 72% said they do not have children at home and attend church with them.
- Question 7 – Of the 28% who said they do have children, 56% said they would allow their children to attend. A more important number is the 38% who said their children don't typically attend Sunday School.
- Question 8 – Precautions for Children's Sunday School – What we see is that people want us to be vigilant with their children.
- Question 9 – About the capacity to attend services. The diversity of opinion in this response is reflective of what we say in Questions 1 and 2.
- Question 10 – With regard to restarting, 57% said they wanted us to hold "in person" services as soon as possible. And I don't blame them.
- Question 11 and 12 – A willingness to have different service times or different venues – both reflected the strongest voice of the survey – more than 75% said yes to both.
- Question 13 – 65% of those responding told us they had been at FBC more than 10 years.
- Question 14 – 71% of those responding were in our uppermost groups, a finding that is consistent among churches I know that have used this survey.

In summary, the survey did exactly what we were hoping it would do – tell us your thoughts and feelings. Now, as we progress to Welcome Home First Family Phase 2, we do so better informed and more aware of how our family feels.

WELCOME HOME FIRST FAMILY PHASE 2 – PARTICIPATION

This Sunday represents our first time back in the building since March 8. That's a long time! I wanted to use the rest of my note to discuss with you what to expect and how we plan to proceed.

TWO IN-PERSON LIVE SERVICES on May 17th at 8 AM and at 10 AM:

- Our 8 AM service is reserved for those 55 and older. It will be traditional music only. Sadly, we have asked our gatekeepers to ask children to stay away from these services.

- The 10 AM services will be contemporary. Live streamed to the Chapel and the Fellowship Hall and Welcome Center as alternative sites.

So what happens if we have someone come who did not register and there's not room in one of our venues? Our relief valve will be the Welcome Center. If people show up that we didn't count on or plan for, we'll ask them to remain in the Welcome Center and watch the service from there.

- Registration for the service of your choice will be required. Just a reminder that if you have NOT registered for a service and you'd like to come, you need to do so today. Go to our website and you'll be directed from there.
- Park based on where you intend to access the building and leave using the same door. Your registration will indicate what door you'll be assigned.
- We'll be dismissing all services akin to a funeral dismissal – That is to say, row by row or family by family.
- Our custodial crew will be cleaning the building between services.

OTHER NOTES:

- No in person Sunday School classes until further notice. Zooms and social distance-ing groups can feel free to continue.
- No PM services in person until further notice. Online continues as it has.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Offering boxes have been posted around the building. (Welcome Center, Chapel Foyer, Fish Tank entrance and North doors toward Fellowship Hall).
- There will be no "meet and greet / welcome time" in the services for now. Likewise, we will not join hands at the close of the service.
- Bibles, hymn books and pens have been removed from the pew backs.
- No Wednesday Night services until further notice.

How long will this be in place? Honestly, I don't know. Our plan is to wait and see what the Governor has to say on Monday, May 18th. If he opens buildings to 50%, then we'll re-evaluate. Perhaps we can do only two services. Regardless, it's probable that the times will remain the same for the rest of May.

ONE FINAL WORD

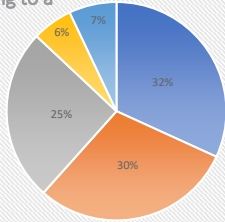
I wanted to say thanks to each of you who came by my drive through birthday party last week. Thanks also to the MANY who sent cards, emails, texts and other expressions of kindness. This birthday is one unlike any I've ever had – or may ever have again – but I'm grateful I got to share it with you. I'm glad the Lord has put us together as a family for just such a moment.

Your servant,

Darin

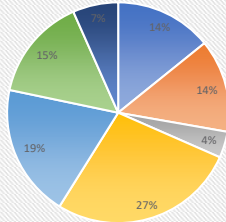
1. When the guidelines regarding large group meetings lift, which best describes your attitude toward returning to a worship service at church?

- I will return the first opportunity we have.
- I will return at first chance, but with concern/precautions.
- I will wait a few weeks before I attend.
- It will be quite a while before I return.
- I am not sure.

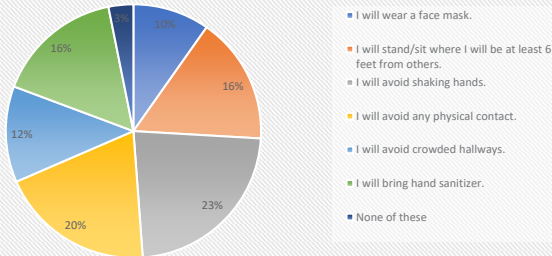


2. Other than the lift of restrictions, are there other signals you would want to see before you return to a worship service at FBC?

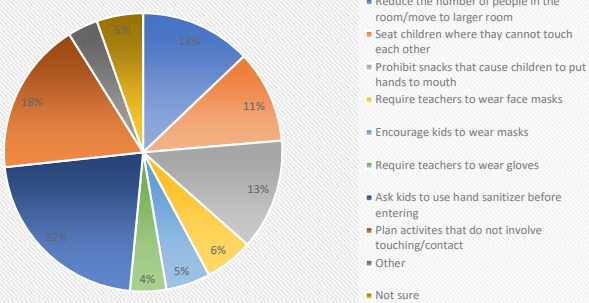
- Local businesses open again
- Local restaurants seating areas open again
- Schools open again
- The number of coronavirus cases in our area very small
- Most social distancing recommendations lifted
- None of these
- Not sure



3. What precautions (if any) do you plan to take when you return to a worship service?

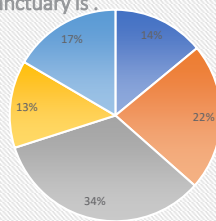


8. If yes to question 6, what precautions (if any) do you expect the church to take in the children's and student Sunday school classes when they resume?



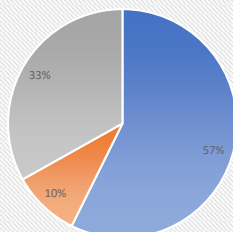
9. I would be comfortable attending services if the sanctuary is . . .

- Filled to capacity (every seat taken)
- Three-quarters filled (empty seats, but not empty rows)
- Half filled (empty seat either beside OR in front of me)
- One-quarter filled (empty seats beside AND in front of me)
- None of these (at least not right now)

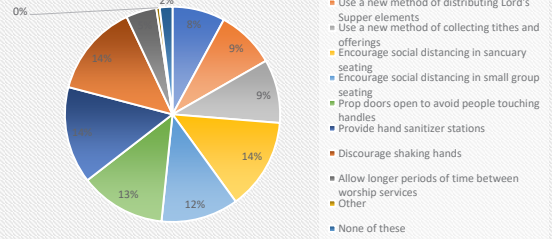


10. When the guidelines/restrictions lift, which of the following would you prefer for our church?

- Resume in person worship at the church immediately
- Meet in small groups for a few weeks before resuming
- Not sure

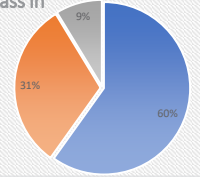


4. What precautions (if any) do you expect our church to take for worship gatherings?



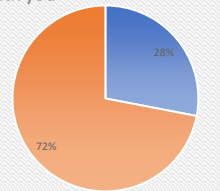
5. Would you be willing to attend your Sunday school class in your regular classroom?

- Yes
- Not right away
- I do not have a regular Sunday school class



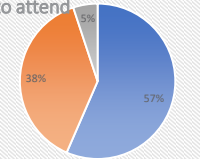
6. Do you have children age 18 or younger who live with you and typically attend church with you?

- Yes
- No



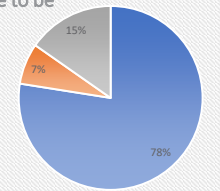
7. If yes to question 6, would you allow your child(ren) to attend their Sunday school class(es)?

- Yes
- Not right away
- My child(ren) do(es) not typically attend Sunday school.



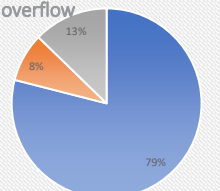
11. Would you be willing to attend a worship service at a different time than you typically attend to allow people to be more spread out in the sanctuary?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



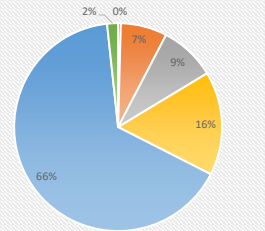
12. Would you be willing to attend a worship service in a overflow room to ensure people (in the sanctuary and overflow rooms) are spread out?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



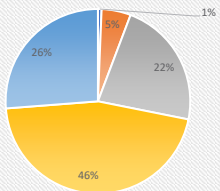
13. How long have you been attending FBC?

- I am new in 2020
- Less than 2 years
- 2 - 4 years
- 5 - 9 years
- 10+ years
- I don't remember



14. What is your age?

- Less than 18
- 18 - 29
- 30 - 49
- 50 - 69
- 70+



ONLINE ACTIVITIES WEEK OF MAY 13

GENERAL

Sunday (on our website and Facebook Live)

- 8 AM & 10 AM Worship Service
- 5 PM Hymm Sing with James and Nancy Ervin at facebook.com/james.ervin1

SUNDAY SCHOOL: ADULTS

Class led by Vernon Stokes available online Sunday at 9am at: fbc-midland.org/resources/sunday-school-lesson

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

FBC families, we are EXCITED to help equip you to continue discipling your kids at home! LifeWay Kids at Home Digital Pass experience is a resource to supplement Sunday School from home. There are lessons available for both Preschool and Elementary students. There is a video session with a downloadable Activity Page and One Conversation Sheet.

To get the Digital Pass and access LifeWay Kids at Home, please follow these steps:

- *Go to my.lifeway.com/redeem
- *Register if you are a new user or log in if you already have an account (most of you are likely a new user!)
- *Enter this redemption code: VZMD4SSQ38
- *Click "ACCESS" (if prompted to sign in again, sign in) and then click "MY DASHBOARD," and go to "LIFEWAY KIDS AT HOME."
- *Download your Activity Page and One Conversation Sheet to use as you watch the video session (including a video lesson, mission video, and Gospel presentation)!

CHILDREN MINISTRY

Sarah will teach the Sunday School lesson on her [personal Facebook page](#) at 1:00 PM May 17.

Katy will be sending a link via e-mail on her plans for:

- Online Midpoint on Wednesday at 7pm on our YouTube channel – FBC Midland Students.
- This Sunday, each Student Sunday School class will be meeting by Zoom! Katy and your Sunday School leaders will be contacting each class with more information.

Contact Katy in the Student Ministry office if you do not receive the link - 432-683-0610

FAMILY MINISTRY

All opportunities to connect will be on our **FBC Family Ministry Page on Facebook**.

- Daily:
Prayer Challenge at 4:00pm (one way to pray for your kids each day)
- Wednesday - We've completed our "Building Happy Families" Facebook Live series. We'll take a break until June, and then resume with a "Love and Respect" Zoom class for engaged or married couples. Be watching for sign ups!

Sunday School (contact your leader for details.)

Meeting via Zoom

- As One
- Compass
- Luke
- Evermore
- Andrew
- Stephen

Facebook Live

- Song of Solomon
- Isaac

ADULT 55+

- Grace SS Department
San Smith sends a recording by email link.
- Andrew SS Department
Will meet via Zoom
Contact leader for details.

REMEMBER TO REGISTER

Registration is required to attend the 8 AM or 10 AM Live services.

Find more info at at:

fbc-midland.org/sunday-may-17/

1ST FAMILY NEWS

HOME TOUCH MINISTRY

In honor of Mother's Day we had several of our Home Touch volunteers deliver flowers and a card to our homebound moms last week. We have some very dedicated people who continue to make a difference in the lives of these special folks in our church family. Our prayer is that more people would join this ministry team. If you are interested in making phone calls or visits, please contact James Ervin or Rhonda Carroll in the church office. Serve Christ by serving others!



HomeTouch Volunteer

MUSIC MINISTRY

Starting May 13 all singers and anyone who plays a band or orchestra instrument are invited to join us on Wednesday nights. 6:00 for all orchestra players and 7:00 for all singers. We will meet in the worship center and observe all social distancing guidelines. It's a great time to join during these odd summer days!

BEREAVEMENT

- Lela Kaufman in the death of her husband, Mike.
- Kayla McMillan in the death of her father, John Dunn.

WAINSCOTT/LACY SCHOLARSHIP

If you are attending a Baptist College, University or Seminary, you are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Applications are in Susan Upham's office for the Fall 2020 semester and must be turned in by July 15, 2020

MEN

RECENTLY UNEMPLOYED OR
STRESSED ABOUT EMPLOYMENT

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH @ 7AM



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, PLEASE CONTACT:

lgrimes@fbc-midland.org • ceoff@fbc-midland.org • 432-683-0600

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Church Midland



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FBC DIRECTORY

www.fbc-midland.org

Main Phone - 432.683.0600 Main Fax - 432.683.0660

Prayer Line - 432.683.0683

Pastoral Ministry	683.0604
Missions Ministry	683.0623
Music & Worship Ministry	683.0618
Administrative Office	683.0616
Activities Ministry	683.0647
Business Office	683.0615
Children's Ministry	683.0609
Preschool Ministry	683.0611
Child Development Center	683.0638
Children's Day Out	683.0632
Student Ministry	683.0610
Family Ministry	683.0612
55+ Ministry	683.0612
Media Ministry	683.0622
Membership	683.0616
Duplication Services	683.0626
Library	683.0625

Sunday Service Streamed Online

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

• fbc-midland.org • facebook.com/fbcmidland • vimeo.com/fbcmidland

Sunday Service Televised at

7:00 a.m. on KOSA (CBS) Channel 7

10:00 a.m. on MyTV, Channel 16 (or DirectTV Channel 40)

Televised services are on a one-week tape delay

PRAYER PARTNERS

PRAYER

Our Missionary
in
Toronto, Ontario



Jason McGibbon
Hamilton Fellowships

- Pray for discernment as to how we continue to live out our vision to create safe places to explore Jesus together while practicing physical distancing.
- Pray that we would seize the opportunities that this season has offered and learn how to best engage and include people, especially new people who have come through our online ministry.
- Pray that when isolation is finally over that we can find a new location for our Sunday gatherings. We had been close to outgrowing our current facility and had begun to search before COVID hit.



Join us in giving online at our church

- Must add your name for your year-end report.
- Must use a new browser: Windows Edge, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox

fbc-midland.org

one-time gifts
recurring giving
credit card
bank giving
manage account



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

May 10, 2020

Offering	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
First Baptist.....	\$ 150,094	\$ 5,886,851
Budget Requirement.....	\$ 135,000	\$ 4,957,082
Over/Under Budget.....	\$ 15,094	\$ 929,769
Hope 1:8	\$ 520	\$ 19,208