



RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

A Letter of Encouragement and Guidance from the Senior Pastor & Re-Entry Leadership Team

God is great and greatly to be praised! Without a doubt, the LORD has blessed and sustained us through the pandemic. We rejoice for all who have recovered, received the vaccine yet we remain prayerful that God's strength, power, and comforting presence will continue to be with the families of all those who have transitioned.

A sincere "thank you" to all of you who have been supportive of Watts Chapel by watching us weekly via Livestream, YouTube, Facebook Live and wattschapel.org. I also appreciate all of you who have listened via Choice FM radio. Thank you to all of you who have faithfully served to continue the work of ministry and supported the church financially. God has shown himself faithful to us during this time!

Outlined in this document is our plan and strategy that will go into effect on **the third Sunday in June 2021 at 9:30 a.m.** for graduates and their families only. **Worship Services will also be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021 and Sunday, August 15, 2021.** Doors will open at **8:45 a.m.** for those who desire to worship in person. However, we appreciate everyone who plans to attend abiding by the rules set forth in our strategic re-opening plan.

Worshippers who are not comfortable coming into the building are encouraged to attend worship service via all our media platforms and radio. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we begin the reopening process!

RE-OPENING SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIC PLAN

1. **Registration:** During the week leading up to the in-person worship, we will ask worshippers who desire to be physically present in church to please register online or call in between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and register for his or her seat(s). **The call-in option is available only to persons who have no internet access.** When calling in to reserve your seat, you will be asked how many are in your party and for their names. This will help us to determine how many persons will be allowed to sit on any given pew. Furthermore, the pews will be marked for individual persons to be seated and for families of two or more to be seated. Every person age 2 and older must register and complete the COVID screening form in order to attend in-person Worship Service.
2. Please note that **every** person who desires to attend in-person Sunday morning Worship must register **except** the following persons: the pastor and his family, Rev. Sammy Robinson, deacons, persons serving in the Music ministry on that Sunday, persons serving in the Ushers ministry on that Sunday, persons serving in the Sentinels ministry on that Sunday, persons serving in the Media ministry on that Sunday, persons serving in the First Aid ministry on that Sunday and persons serving in the Stewardship ministry on that Sunday. **Personnel who are not required to register must complete an electronic COVID Screening Form by 11:00 am Friday prior to the third Sunday worship service.**

3. If a person(s) is not fully vaccinated and has traveled outside of the United States or on a commercial flight within 10 days prior to the in-person Worship Service, that person will not be allowed into the sanctuary. Additionally, if a person has recovered from a documented COVID-19 infection and has not been symptom-free for 10 days prior to in-person worship, that person will not be allowed into the sanctuary.

ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

For these purposes, a family constitutes persons who live in the same household only.

- A. The ushers will seat from the front to the back of the sanctuary.
 - B. Worshipers will be seated every other row.
 - C. Families of 3-4 persons will be seated on the end of a pew on every other row.
1. **Seating & Masks:** Seating will be done on a first register/call, first serve basis. Once we have reached the capacity of 200 in the sanctuary, we will not be able to accommodate additional people.
 2. **Sanctuary Seating:** Persons registered to be seated in the sanctuary are asked to enter and exit through the doors of the main sanctuary only. Social distancing will be practiced. Pews will be marked for non-use.
 3. **Mask Wearing:** All people aged 2 and older **must** wear a mask at all times when in any part of the building and during Worship service. **Mask wearing is mandatory.** If you do not have one, a disposable face mask will be provided for you.
 4. **Security Ministry Team:** For persons who show up after we have reached capacity, they will be kindly informed by our Sentinels and/or Ushers Ministry that our Sanctuary has reached capacity and no additional persons can be admitted at this time. Therefore, if you have family, friends or co-workers who would like to attend, please inform them of our procedures. Also, the procedures will be posted on our website, www.wattschapel.org. **There is no onsite registration.**
 5. **Temperature Check by our First Aid Ministry:** Upon entering the building, please submit to the temperature check at the temperature kiosks. **Anyone who has a temperature 100.4 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter the sanctuary.** Once cleared by our First Aid Ministry please submit to the guidance and directions of our Ushers Ministry to lead you to your designated seat. Once seated, please remain in your seat until the worship celebration ends, unless you need to excuse yourself to use the restroom or for personal reasons. Attendees are strongly encouraged to take care of their personal needs prior to entering the sanctuary for Worship Service.
 6. **Restrooms:** Restrooms will be made available, and sextons will clean, sanitize and disinfect the restrooms during and after service.
 7. **Offering:** Our offering will not be collected as usual due to our circumstances, but the offering will be placed into the secured locked boxes at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Electronic giving is strongly encouraged!
 8. **Communion:** On Communion Sunday, all worshipers will pick up their communion elements prior to entering the sanctuary.
 9. **Baptism:** Baptism will not be held until the social distancing ban has been lifted completely. Once the ban is lifted, we will explore alternatives and options to be creative with baptism to ensure everyone's safety.

10. **Music, Worship and Arts Ministry**: Disciples singing in the choir will be limited to no more than 13 persons for the purpose of social distancing and will be selected at the discretion of the Director of Worship, Music & Arts.
11. **Transportation Ministry**: Transportation will not be provided at this time. As soon as this changes, we will provide notification.
12. **At the Benediction**: Once the closing prayer and benediction has been given, please remain seated and our Ushers Ministry will come and dismiss the congregation one pew at a time to respect the government mandate on social distancing.
13. **Hugging & Hand Shaking**: Until further notice we are asking our church family to refrain from hugging and hand shaking during worship to ensure that everyone feels respected and safe until the virus has been eradicated and the social distancing ban has been lifted.
14. **Visitors**: We realize that we may receive 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. **Cleaning & Disinfection**: Please know that for the safety of our church family, visitors and friends, the sextons will professionally disinfect and clean the Sanctuary and all restrooms on a weekly basis.
16. **Hand sanitizing stations**: Hand sanitizer receptacles are provided on the outside of both sanctuary doors as well as in the vestibule.
17. **Microphones**: The microphones will be cleaned and sanitized weekly. Only the preacher will use the pulpit. Other speaker(s) will use the podium. The mics will be cleaned after each speaker.
18. **High Touch Areas**: The entrance and exit doors will propped open to reduce unnecessary hard surface touching by the discipleship. Also, all doorknobs, handles, hand plates, light switches, and railings will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis to prevent the possible spread of infection.
19. **Bibles and Hymnals**: Bibles, fans and hymnals in the back of pews will be removed.
20. **Funerals**: No funerals will be held onsite at Watts Chapel. All funerals will be held at the designated location of the coordinating funeral home. Pastor White and Watts Chapel will provide clergy and musical accompaniment.

Revised 07/12/2021