

FIRST SOUTHERN
Baptist Church

1400 North 3rd East | Mountain Home, ID 83647 | 208-587-3828

May 6, 2020

Greetings to all the Saints of FSBC,

It was a joy to see the church family begin its migration back home. As we continue moving forward during this transition time, there are a few things I want to reiterate. Namely:

Good News

The reopening of the Gem State is underway. A complete list of the stages and protocols can be found at REBOUND.IDAHO.GOV. In accordance with the *Idaho Rebounds: Guidelines For Opening Up Idaho*, places of worship were listed along with the Stage One businesses that were allowed to reopen on May 1st. Consequently, we held our first regular worship service on Sunday, May 3rd.

We will continue with one corporate worship service only during the month of May. During June and July, we will transition in and reopen our ancillary ministries. The Church Council will be meeting on the 12th to begin developing a strategic plan for accomplishing that goal. As details become available, I will share them with you.

Reassuring Information

I do realize that for some there may be a feeling or concern about returning to a public forum. You are encouraged to rejoin us at your personal point of comfort.

Let me assure you, we are following all the Governor-mandated guidelines. We will continue adherence to the three main guidelines we have been given until the requirements are lifted. The guidelines are:

1) Social Distancing –

We have cordoned off every other row in the front half of the church. This will allow families to sit together as a unit. Each family unit will be able to distance themselves from other units. Reminders to practice social distancing will be given upon entering the building. Also, announcements will be made at the start of the service:

- To practice social distancing
- The location of hand sanitizer stations
- The location of the offering plates
- The location of the bulletin/sermon outline

2) Sanitation protocol –

We have taken every precaution to help you feel safe concerning the cleanliness of the surfaces you may come in contact with.

- All door knobs and handles have been sanitized
- All restroom facilities have been bleached and sanitized
- All toys and playthings in the nursery have been cleaned and sanitized
- Hand sanitizers station have been set up in the foyer and child-care area

3) CDC Guidance –

We have carefully reviewed the CDC guidelines to ensure our compliance.

- Kleenex and “no Touch” waste bins - stationed around the church
- Guidelines for proper hand washing - posted
- Applicable posters and signage - posted
- All other CDC guidance as set forth – monitored and implemented

We must all realize that transitioning back to our full ministry schedule will take time. Those in the high-risk category are being ask to continue to stay at home until stage 4, which is June 13-26.

During the transition process we look forward to progress each week. It may take us 8 weeks or more to see our whole church family together again. Sometime after that, our goal is to have a celebratory Sunday. The plan will be to enjoy a potluck meal in our newly remodeled kitchen and Fellowship Hall.

Remember to hold each other up in prayer.

See you on Sunday,

Pastor Jim