



May 21, 2020

Amelia Baptist Church Family and Friends,

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic we have all faced many challenges and struggles. I have often felt inadequate and discouraged. Most of the time, however, I have been encouraged. God has provided ways for us to continue to worship and gather digitally in ways that most of us have never considered. You all have done an incredible job of being flexible and encouraging each other.

As we look towards re-starting our physical gatherings on our campus we are going to have to take a gradual approach. Your deacons, church staff, and I have prayerfully considered many options and have developed a plan to move forward. **I am excited to inform you that we are going to resume physical worship services on Sunday, June 7th at 10:45 am.**

During this **first phase** of re-starting, in accordance with government recommendations, we will take **several precautionary steps**:

- If you or anyone in your household have any symptoms of illness or fever (100.4 F) please remain at home
- Please observe social distancing (6 feet of distance between people)
- Please avoid physical contact (for now choose a simple “hello” and smile)
- We recommend wearing masks (please bring your own or one can be provided for you)
- Greeters wearing masks and gloves will open the entrance doors for you
- Ushers will direct you to marked seats that are spaced 6 feet apart
- The offering will be collected at the entrances and exits to the sanctuary (save online giving is available at www.ameliabaptistchurch.org/giving)
- The Lord’s Supper and baptisms will be conducted with added safety precautions
- Restrooms will be limited to one family at a time
- We will dismiss in phases to avoid contact
- Our facilities will be sanitized after each gathering
- No drinks or food will be served

Remain encouraged as this phase of re-opening comes with these **temporary changes**:

- Nursery or children’s activities remain suspended. Whole families are invited to join the worship service in the sanctuary. (new messages for children will keep being provided through our “Amelia Kidz” Youtube channel)

- Van ministry remains suspended
- No in-person Bible study groups will be meeting on campus (including Wednesdays and Sundays)
- Bible study groups are encouraged to continue meeting via ZOOM
- We will continue offering live streaming services (also beyond this phase)

I want to assure you that our church leadership will continue to pray, and monitor all developments of COVID-19, as well as government recommendations, in making decisions about the next phases of re-opening.

In the mean time pray and prepare for the Holy Spirit to move among us as He had never done before! Share the Good News with those around you! People need Hope right now more than ever! People need Jesus!

1 Thessalonians 5:18-23 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Robby Ridgeway, *Senior Pastor*
Ephesians 3:8