

The Historic Little Rock Baptist Church



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SENIOR PASTOR

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Message from our Pastor:

As your pastor, I recognize we have all been through a lot during this pandemic. The steps we have taken so far have kept us healthy and safe. I intend to do all I can to ensure your safety continues when we gather for worship. The following guidelines may ask you to make a lot of adjustments, but it is my prayer that these practices and protocols will help protect everyone. We all miss the days when we could hug and kiss one another and enjoy a carefree fellowship experience. I believe we will return to those days soon, but until then I want every worshiper to be safe, strong, and healthy. I thank God for the Historic Little Rock church family. Remember, the will of God cannot lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.

Rev. Jim Holley, Ph.D., D.Min.

GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR WORSHIP AT HISTORIC LITTLE ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

Necessary Conditions for Resuming Worship Services, Funerals and Weddings

1. Worship services will resume on Sunday, June 7. A one-hour service will be held at 10:00 AM. Members and visitors are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes early for screening and seating. Worship service will be broadcast on 89.7 FM for those who prefer to remain in their cars (must park in one of our parking lots, facing the church building).
2. Members and visitors are required to wear face coverings or masks in and around the church at all times. Disposable gloves are optional. Persons with latex allergies may need to stay home.
3. Professional cleaning and sanitizing of church facilities will use proper techniques as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) before and after services.
4. Physical distancing must be practiced in the church and on the church property.
5. Attendance for worship should not exceed 25-30% of the total capacity for the church. This limit should allow people to remain at least 6 feet apart.
6. A non-contact thermometer will be used to take temperatures upon entry to the building. A temperature over 100.4°F (38°C) most often means you have a fever caused by an infection or illness. In this case, you will be asked to go back home.
7. Church members are asked to contact 313-872-2900 for questions or details about how to attend upcoming worship services.

General Information and Guidelines

Church members and visitors 65 and older (the recommended CDC age), with compromised health conditions or caring for family members or others who are sick in any way, are encouraged to stay home and enjoy service via live stream. Anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days, is ill, has a temperature, cough, chills, etc. should definitely stay home as an act of love for the whole faith community. Associate Ministers, deacons, trustees, and ushers with respiratory infections of any kind should avoid public worship or serving of any kind during and after worship services.

- 1. Physical Distancing:** Physical distancing is to be observed and signified by signs, tape, or other means. This includes both indoor and outdoor areas. Worship services indoors will be limited in attendance, depending on guidelines set by public authorities.
- 2. Entering the Church:** People using the Josephine entrance, will be seated on the left side of the church (facing the pulpit). Those using the Woodward entrance will be seated on the right side of the church. The elevator will be limited to only one passenger at a time.
- 3. Seating For Worship, Funerals and Weddings:** Mindful of the imposed allowed limitations and physical layout of the church sanctuary, it will be clearly designated where seating is permitted: 1 person on side/short pews, 3 people on main sanctuary pews, with a 2-pew separation in all areas including the Holley Chapel and balconies. All church members and visitors must sit at least 6 feet apart from others in the sanctuary. Families who have been sheltered together at home may sit together in the sanctuary while maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from others.
- 4. Face Coverings/Masks:** Face coverings or masks must be worn by everyone approaching the church both inside and outside (except for children under 2 years of age).
- 5. Disposable Gloves:** Disposable gloves will be worn by church staff, volunteers, ushers, church nurses, trustees, deacons, and those preparing or cleaning areas on church property. Instructions for the proper removal of disposable gloves after each use are to be given and posted.
- 6. Restrooms:** Restrooms will allow only one person at a time to support physical distancing. Any person wearing gloves who enters the restroom must dispose of those gloves or change into a new pair of gloves after leaving the restroom.
- 7. Holy Communion Distribution:** On first Sundays, the Holy Communion kits will be passed out by deacons, at each door, as church members and visitors enter the sanctuary.
- 8. Tithes/Offering/Special Financial Gifts:** Tithes and offerings will be collected by trustees at the doors as church members and visitors leave the sanctuary following the closing prayer/benediction at the end of the worship service. Online giving will still be available through the website and U.S. mail.
- 9. Church Music:** Health experts indicate that singing produces 6-10 times more droplets from our mouths than talking. Keeping singing to a minimum is advised. Therefore, the congregation should not remove their masks to sing. Choir/praise team singing, when allowed, will also require masks while maintaining 10 feet of physical distancing.
- 10. Protocol for Church Ushers and Church Nurses:** Our church is blessed to have a large number of ushers and church nurses who serve our members every Sunday. Therefore, to protect them and our members, we will only need a limited number of ushers and nurses to serve each Sunday. No more than 5-6 ushers should serve each Sunday to keep the distancing protocol in place. No more than 2-3 nurses are requested to serve. This holds true for funerals as well. The president of each usher board and the church nurses will make assignments of who will serve on their designated Sundays, being mindful of those with compromised health

issues. All ushers and nurses must wear masks and disposable gloves and must wash their hands before and after worship services and funerals for 20 seconds with soap and hot water.

- 11. Cleaning and Disinfecting the Church Sanctuary:** To help stop the spread of Covid-19 virus, effective cleaning and disinfecting is essential. It is especially important to be able to know the distinction between these two practices. It is also advisable to ensure that the products being used are effective in disinfecting as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency and CDC guidelines. The staff will be responsible for making sure the sanctuary and other parts of the church building are disinfected to provide for the health and safety of church members and visitors.
 - a. Associate Ministers, deacons, trustees, ushers, church nurses, are to wash their hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds before and after worship services.
 - b. Church members and visitors are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to use before and after worship services. Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance of the sanctuary as needed.
 - c. Hymn books, bibles, offering envelopes and any other paper items will be removed from the pews to make it easier to clean and disinfect the sanctuary.
 - d. The inside doors of the sanctuary will remain open before, during and after worship services, funerals, and weddings. This is to minimize the touching of doors.
 - e. After each worship service, funeral, wedding, or prayer service, items used or touched by the public (door handles, rest rooms, light switches, etc.) should be disinfected.
- 12. Associate Ministers, Deacons and Trustees:** To provide the needed 6 feet physical distancing as recommended, sub-teams will be assigned, in specific amounts, to serve on designated Sundays. For example: ministers-2, deacons-4 to 5 and trustees-3 to 4. The pastor will make ministerial assignments and the chairpersons will assign their deacons and trustees.
- 13. Dismissal and Recessional:** To protect church members and visitors, and to avoid large numbers of people leaving at the same time, we will dismiss worshipers one pew at a time. Dismissal will take place with those sitting on the right side of the church (facing the pulpit) exiting the sanctuary, from the back, through the Woodward doors as directed by the pastor and the ushers. Those seated on the left side of the church will exit, from the front, through the Josephine doors. We ask that all members exit the building without fellowshiping or engaging in long conversations with other members. There should be no handshakes or hugs. Each person should place their disposable masks, gloves, communion supplies, etc. in the designated receptacles in the lobbies upon dismissal.
- 14. Church Offices, Fellowship Hall, Gym, and Kitchen:** All church offices will be off limits to members and visitors on Sundays, including the pastor's office and conference room, the church business office, choir room, second and third floor classrooms, and the Rosa Parks Board Room. The Tate Fellowship Hall, gym, and kitchen will also be closed.
- 15. Nurses' Station:** The nurses' station will be locked and only used by a nurse in an emergency or to allow bathroom access.
- 16. Small Groups:** Onsite small group services and meetings are suspended until further notice (ex: children's church, youth church, Sunday school, Bible studies).