

PHBC Reopening Guidelines September 2021

Let us be clear – church is essential and for us, and a big part of this is worship service. The importance of faith and spiritual wellbeing are more important now than ever before. Every church has a vital part to play in aiding its local community in any way that it can.

Jesus said in **Matthew 22:37-39 (KJV)** “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* During this pandemic, love for ourselves is expressed in the ways we protect ourselves from getting infected. In the same way, love for our neighbor is expressed in the ways we protect them from getting infected.

COVID-19 is a deadly disease that must be handled with extreme care, diligence, and planning. These guidelines are not meant to address the reopening of the entire function of the church. We are reopening the ministry for Sunday worship (details will be addressed later in this document).

It is important to ensure that these guidelines are communicated and announced to our members beforehand. These guidelines must also apply to any visitors allowed to enter our services.

As we move in this reopening phase, we will be instituting a graduated process of capping attendance. In our first phase the following things will take place:

- Attendance will be limited to 150 people (to include families and/or individuals)
- Families must register as a unit and sit together during worship. **You most likely will not be able to sit in your usually spot.**
- Seating will not be assigned, but an usher or greeter will seat worshippers as they enter (seating will begin at the front of the sanctuary, working back toward the entry doors).
- Worshippers will be asked, when seated to please maintain the social distancing of six (6) feet on each pew.

Reopening Guidelines

Service: 7:30 am – 9:00 am (*check-in begins at 7:00 am*)

Date: Sunday September 19, 2021

Registration Opens: **Monday, September 13, 2021**

Registration Closes: **Thursday, September 16, 2021**

Registration Process

Please note: These operational changes are only temporary to help enforce the health and safety of all members and visitors. We will revert to our regular flow of service as soon as it is safe to do so. *We have new signage and posters in place around the church building to enforce the new rules and guidelines during this COVID-19 season.*

Recommended Attendees: Members and Visitors

To protect all worshippers, **we are strongly recommending those who attend service are vaccinated and free of all COVID-19 symptoms.** All others are asked to continue to watch service via our livestream.

Families with children not vaccinated and under the age of 12 years are asked to use their discretion when choosing to worship.

Safety Preparations:

- The church building is professionally cleaned and sanitized throughout the week.
- Sanitizing equipment and, cleaning supplies (disinfectant, hand sanitizers, gloves, and masks) are available on site.

Entry Restrictions:

- **Attendees are required to pre-register for service:**
 1. **Registration may be done on the church website from Monday until Thursday of each week**
 2. **Persons with no computer access may register by calling the church on Tuesday thru Thursday between 9:00 AM and 12 Noon of each week**

Process for entering the building:

- **Check in for Worship service begins at 7:00am for the 7:30 am service. There are 2 check-in stations at the Breezeway entrances only.**
- **Check in for worship service will END at 7:45 AM on each Sunday**
- Building entrance will be through designated entrance only doors (breezeway).
- Face masks must be worn by all attendees while in the building.

Operational Changes and Precautions:

- Communion Sunday: You will pick up your elements on the way into the sanctuary from the trays located in the lobby. The trays will be attended by the Deacons and/or Deaconess.
- Church Greeters, Ushers, and Security will be reduced in sanctuary, but will assist with seating worshippers and facilitating other COVID-19 guidelines for worshippers

Bathroom Precautions:

- Please use restrooms before entering Sanctuary for worship service.
- Signage is posted to remind attendees of social distancing
- Women's restroom - to be limited to 3 persons at a time
- Men's restroom - to be limited to 3 persons at a time

During Service:

- Online giving (website, Givelify app, text-to-give) will be highly encouraged to the fullest extent possible to limit the use of handling cash and/or checks during offering.
- Those who attend in-person services may place tithes and offerings in a Tithe box placed near the back of the Sanctuary and the Breezeway (Tithe boxes will be attended by trustees). There will be no walking around to give tithes and offerings.
- Physical touching and greeting (ex. hugging, kissing, shaking hands, etc.) is discouraged throughout service.
- During the altar call, if you need prayer, you will be asked to raise your hand and we will pray for you from your seat.

At the conclusion of service:

- Attendees are asked to remain seated until dismissed by the pulpit, once your section is dismissed, please exit the building as soon as possible.
- There is to be no congregating in the church lobbies. Always maintain social distance.

**Statement of Waiver of Liability and
Assumption of Risk Related to Coronavirus/COVID-19**

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a pandemic. COVID-19 is highly contagious and known to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. **Evidence has shown that COVID-19 can cause serious and potentially life-threatening illness and even death.**

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church cannot prevent you from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while participating in **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** ministries or using its premises. It is not possible to prevent the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to participate in **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** ministries and/or enter onto **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** premises you may be exposing yourself and/or increasing the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I have read and understand the above warning concerning COVID-19. I hereby choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 for myself in order to participate in **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** ministries and enter **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** premises. These ministries are of such value to me that I accept the risk of being exposed to, contracting, and/or spreading COVID-19 in order to participate in **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** ministries in person "rather than arranging for an alternative method of enjoying the same ministries virtually (e.g., Live Streaming, videoconference).

WAIVER OF LAWSUIT/LIABILITY: I hereby forever release and waive my right to bring suit against **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church** and its officers, ministers, directors, managers, officials, trustees, agents, employees, or other representatives in connection with exposure, infection, and/or spread of COVID-19 related to participating in **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's** ministries and entering their premises. I understand that this waiver means I give up my right to bring any claims including for personal injuries, death, disease or property losses, or any other loss, including but not limited to claims of negligence and give up any claim I may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen, or unforeseen.

CHOICE OF LAW: I understand and agree that the laws of the State of GEORGIA will apply to this contract.

BY REGISTERING, I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL PROVISIONS OF THE REOPENING GUIDELINES, AND THIS RELEASE. I THEREFORE, FREELY AND KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE RISK AND WAIVE MY RIGHTS CONCERNING LIABILITY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE:

READY TO REGISTER? CLICK THE LINK BELOW!