

September 11, 2020

Dear Brooks Avenue Family,

**Beginning Sunday, September 20 we will offer an indoor adult Bible class at 9:00 a.m.
followed by an indoor worship service at 10:00 a.m.**

We thank you for your patience, faithfulness, and love during this long time of separation and inability to gather for worship as a whole family. After much prayer, conversation, and valuable advice, we have chosen to reconvene indoor worship services. We are excited about people being able to “see” one another again.

Please know that we plan to livestream the Bible class and worship service. Go to www.brooksavenue.org to watch. Note: The audience will not be shown in the livestream.

We know some of you may think we should have done this some time ago. We also know some of you may think it too soon. We are asking for grace from all to all.

We want you to make the best decision about returning, or not returning, for you and your family. We realize this is personal. Please make a prayerful decision, understanding that this is not a test of faith.

We are planning a joyful and uplifting Bible class and worship experience, both of which will be in the auditorium. We anticipate the worship will last approximately 45 minutes, with singing, praying, partaking of communion, and hearing a lesson from God’s word. All are invited to participate. We do want to emphasize that we encourage our small groups that are meeting in their neighborhoods to continue their gatherings as well. We rejoice at the good that is being done in those worship gatherings as well!

The church has taken measures to follow state and local protocols regarding indoor gatherings and has taken other precautions to assist in protecting the health and safety of attendees. However, protection from all potential risks or exposures to COVID-19 cannot be ensured. If your health is compromised in any way (age-related illness, sickness, or weakened immune system), please consider carefully whether you should attend this assembly. If anyone in your family has a fever, please stay home. With this in mind, please note the following expectations and accommodations:

All persons who attend must

- Wear a mask the entire time (ages 2 years and up).
- Maintain physical distancing from others (minimum 6 feet), with family units sitting together.
- Refrain from hugging, kissing, shaking hands, and elbow-bumping.
- Refrain from fellowshiping in the hallways, foyers, and lobbies. Please fellowship in the auditorium or outside while maintaining physical distance.
- Enter the building by using the doors near the Lorren Lobby (Watson Hall side) or the doors near the handicapped parking spaces (entrance nearest Wade Avenue).

- RSVP to frontdesk@brooks.org by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, September 19, giving the name of your family and the number that plan to attend the service. This is not to exclude anyone but will help in our planning for a safe environment.

These accommodations will be provided

- A separate seating section on the left side of the auditorium (facing the stage) and under the balcony will be reserved for members at risk and/or senior members. This section will be dismissed first at the conclusion of the service.
- Individual travel communion will be available as you enter the auditorium. If you would prefer to bring your own from home, you are invited to do so.
- Rooms for nursing mothers are available (room 103 and the Prayer Room)
- Room 104 and the room across from the supply room will be open as unattended nursery for parents and children.
- Ushers will direct you to sitting areas. (The balcony will be reserved for overflow seating).
- A collection station will be convenient for your offering.
- Restrooms near the auditorium and Lorren Lobby will be open should you have an urgent need.
- Contactless hand sanitizing stations will be available near the auditorium entrances.
- Face masks will be available for those who forgot to bring theirs.
- At the conclusion of the service, dismissal instructions will be given.

What will not be provided at this time

- Bible classes for all children and youth
- An attended nursery
- Prayer circles

Everyone who attends will be expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the church leadership (i.e., wearing facemasks, refraining from hugging, contact with others, sitting in designated places, etc.) in the spirit of Philippians 2:4, "Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest but each of you to the interests of others."

If you have questions regarding this planned worship experience, please contact the shepherds at elders@brooks.org.

We will continue to offer a Wednesday evening adult live Zoom Bible class and small group meetings. Though we are making this long-awaited worship gathering available, it should be viewed as “one of many.” We continue to ask for your prayers, patience, and understanding as we try to navigate this difficult time.

Your shepherds love and appreciate you!

Ron Altman, Lancelot Bailey, Don Finley, Brad Forrest, Mike Loeffler, Bill Stuart