

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

Dr. William DeShone Rosser, Pastor

Deacon Enos Warren, Chair of Deacon Ministry

Mary Price, Church Administrator

Dear Pleasant Grove Family,

We pray health and healing for those who are recovering from this COVID-19 Pandemic. Whether medical, financial, or spiritual, we trust in the Lord of the Promise to see us and redeem us back to community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our YouTube and Zoom ministries that have been born out of this time apart. God has truly blessed us to continue to reach you in socially distant ways and keep you spiritually encouraged along the way.

We realize that many of you are anxious to say the least, to return to worship with the community. No one is more anxious than your Pastor, Deacon Ministry and Leadership Team to resume. We want you to know we are now able to return to worship corporately but with some guidelines handed to us by Illinois Department of Public Health and Center for Disease Control. Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to resume corporate and open worship on **August 2, 2020**. Waiting until then allows us the opportunity to be prepared for all the new requirements and changes that will be implemented as we proceed while COVID-19 is still affecting the nation.

In considering the return to Sunday service, we took into account the median age of our disciples and the number with underlying health conditions. Aside from the spiritual welfare of Pleasant Grove, nothing was more important than the physical health of each person. Therefore, we will be implementing the following:

- Bible Study will resume normal times beginning August 5th.
- Sunday Morning worship will be **offered at two (2) times. 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.** with **Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.**
- We are limited to 50% capacity in each service which means with social distancing guidelines of six (6) foot spacing, we will be limited to 75 people maximum per Worship Celebration. Based on current attendance averages, we will be able to provide service to all current attendees comfortably and within the mandated guidelines.
- We have added a new **8:00 a.m. (Power Hour) Worship** to accommodate our early riser disciples. Those with pre-existing conditions and vulnerable among us are encouraged to attend this worship service. This service will be streamed on-line each week and is planned for one hour in length.
- Our **10:45 Worship** has been streamlined to remove some portions that are being duplicated (i.e. announcements and Share-a-thon). We ask that you keep and read the bulletins and sign up for Text Announcements to stay informed on what is going on. We have additionally removed Fellowship Period and Altar Call at the altar due to distancing and restrictions on touching. We realize having a mask on for an extended period is not comfortable nor practical, therefore we are doing all we can to ensure that "mask time" is as minimal as possible while keeping the reverence of Worship to the Lord.

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- While inside the Hubbard Building, Sanctuary, and office area, **face masks must be worn at all times**. When outside on the campus lot, provided social distance is exercised, no masks are required.
- We ask that social distancing is maintained during worship. Six-foot distances are marked on the pew backs, floor and around the aisles. Ushers and church leaders will assist you should you have questions.
- We ask that you enter the sanctuary through the center door only and exit through the side doors only. This ensures minimal face to face contact.
- Communion elements will be distributed during worship as tithes are rendered. This means you will be handed your bread and wine in the same prepackaged form as you proceed around and back to your seat. We will explain this on the first Sunday as usual to clarify.
- We ask that you not congregate in the foyer between and after services. As quickly as possible, please move outside to fellowship as it provides the safest area to do so.
- The Church office will resume regular hours beginning July 27th. Monday – Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Your pastor and Deacon ministry are always available by appointment during and after office hours.

As we move forward, we continue to pray that God will have mercy on our land, on our health and our church. We anticipate making small modifications and ask for your patience when we do so. With this in mind: 1) You may be asked to move to one side or another on a pew to accommodate social distancing. 2) We may have to turn away additional persons because we have reached capacity. 3) We may ask that families of four or those with small children worship in the balcony area. While this is not all inclusive, it is a few of the anticipated changes that may be asked of you to ensure the safety of all of Pleasant Grove.

This is a new endeavor for all of God's people and ask for your continued prayers. Many of these changes require Pleasant Grove to expend financial resources that were unbudgeted. With this in mind, we ask that you be faithful in your stewardship so that we may remain in compliance with local, state and federal requirements and serve you to the best of our ability. We solicit volunteers for a variety of uses in the coming days. Some of the areas where the greatest need will be:

- Sanitizing between services
- Attendance monitoring
- Security
- Welcome Ambassadors

If you can assist in any of these areas, please call the church office and let us know so we can contact you for the planning meeting for each. We solicit any ideas you may have to help "normalize" worship and ministry in the days to come. Please call the office or your Deacon and voice those ideas. Many of the changes we are making are lawful directives that we must adhere to and ask for your cooperation and support in easing us into the Worship of our Lord. We look forward to seeing you on **August 2** as we come back together in worship and ministry to the Lord.

In Service for Our Lord,

Dr. William DeShone Rosser, Pastor
and the Pleasant Grove Deacon Ministry