



Rev. Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus
Senior Pastor

July 9, 2021

2021, The Year of Revival

“Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.”

– Psalm 80:18,19

Greetings in the name of He who orders our steps and directs our paths,

Every Sunday morning since the start of the pandemic, we have been able to bring the virtual sanctuary into the homes of our Salem family and community. Our ministry would not be possible except through the selfless devotion and consistent dedication of the Saints who show up to the church every Sunday ready to give of their time, talent, and treasure - eager to minister. I want to publicly thank them for their commitment, which has allowed us to feed God’s sheep each week uninterrupted. Likewise, I want to thank our congregation and friends of Salem for continued support.

As we continue in virtual fellowship, we’re preparing for re-opening the church doors. **Our tentative re-opening date is Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021.** This date was specifically selected to allow us to get through the better part of summer holiday gatherings and travel activities that typically bring large groups together. In the meantime, we continue to monitor local public health conditions.

#YourSafetyMatters to us. That’s why we’re ensuring our staff and ministry are adequately prepared for the new normal environment. We’re in the midst of conducting refresher training sessions with each of our ministry leads and volunteers to make certain everyone is prepared to successfully carry out new normal in-person procedures and protocols. Dry-run sessions will begin in early August. These sessions will allow ministry leaders and volunteers to practice run-throughs of in-person worship in the new normal environment. These practice runs provide an opportunity for us to assess any potential challenges we could encounter while acclimating the congregation to the new practices and requirements we must follow when we re-open.

SBC Church re-opening survey results

I’m pleased to report that we received 454 responses to the online survey we disseminated to learn more about your preferences as we prepare to re-open church. Your feedback is appreciated and will be taken into account as the weeks leading up to our re-opening unfold. In the spirit of transparency, **we have enclosed an infographic that captures the survey results and comments received.** As we listen to recommendations from the congregation shared via the survey, we recently began sharing COVID-19 positivity numbers and vaccination statistics from the Douglas County Health Department through a weekly email. If you have not received the vaccination but would like to do so, you can find a location and schedule an appointment here: <https://www.douglascountyhealth.com/109-covid-19/808-covid-19-community-vaccination-clinics>.

Important Updates – July/August 2021

Vacation Bible School

For those who plan to participate in Vacation Bible School, planning remains underway. The curriculum is being finalized and videos are in production for virtual dissemination. This year’s theme is "Get on Board—Cruising with God's Family." Please stay tuned for information about dates, registration and how to access the online delivery platform.

Parking Lot Worship Service – Sunday, July 25

Parking Lot Worship Services will take place **Sunday, July 25. The first service will be held at 10 a.m. and the second service will take place at noon.** Participants should enter the church parking lot from the 33rd Street entrance, park in an available stall and tune into worship through our normal virtual worship channels. Following services, cars should exit through the JC Wade Boulevard entrance. To maintain social distancing, please be aware that the church building will not be accessible during the worship experience. We ask that you cooperate with our security team and church volunteers who will assist in the parking lot during the service. We look forward to seeing you there.

Back to School Prayer Service - Thursday, July 29

On Thursday, July 29 during our Fireside Chat, we will have a back-to-school prayer service for our students, teachers, guidance counselors, student transportation employees, school security and school medical professionals, paraprofessionals, custodial staff, food service professionals and our school secretaries. Be sure to join us as we ask the Lord to bless and keep those who care for our village.

Backpack Giveaway - Saturday, Aug. 7

We will host a backpack/school supplies giveaway **Saturday, Aug. 7** in the church parking lot **from 10 a.m. until supplies are exhausted.** For those who plan to attend, we request that masks be worn. We're asking members who are able to support this event to donate school supplies for elementary through high school students (i.e., backpacks, pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, etc.). **Supplies may be dropped off at the church Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.** We're also asking that you consider giving \$10 above your tithes to support the event. Please indicate via your mail-in or electronic contribution that the funds are for the backpack giveaway. **The deadline for drop off is Friday, July 30.**

Worship in White - Sunday, Aug. 29 (at Holland Performing Arts)

We have scheduled an outside Worship in White Service for **Sunday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center.** Transportation from the church to the Holland will be available. Details are forthcoming. Stay tuned.

Ways to Worship with Us

Please continue to join us in online worship Sundays at 9:55 a.m./10 a.m. via salembc.org, Facebook at [Facebook.com/salembcomaha](https://www.facebook.com/salembcomaha), www.boxcast.com and on YouTube at <https://rb.gy/njzsy9>. On **Sunday afternoons**, join us for our **"Word for Your Walk"** broadcast, **which airs on the CW at 1:30 p.m.**

Podcast lovers: We upload sermons from Sunday worship each week as a podcast on Apple podcasts. Listen at your convenience: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/salem-baptist-church-omaha/id1493073489>. Also, you can subscribe to receive a notification when new sermons are uploaded.

Tithes and Offerings

We appreciate your continued stewardship and support of the mission at the Salem Baptist Church. Tithes and offering donations can be made using the following payment applications:

PayPal – visit our website or send offering/tithes to salemadmin@salembc.org

Venmo – Salem Baptist Church Omaha

Cashapp – \$salemchurchomaha

Givelify – Salem Baptist Church

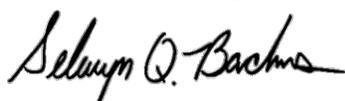
Text "Give" to: (402) 543-3316

Questions? Call the church office at: (402) 455-1000

You may also mail a check to:

Salem Baptist Church
3131 Lake Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68111

Peace and blessings,



Pastor Selwyn Q. Bachus

3131 Lake Street • Omaha, NE 68111 • Phone: 402-455-1000 • Fax: 402-455-0237 • www.salembc.org



454

total responses



50-69

years old
(majority respondents)



45%

Married



38%

Single

50%
capacity

Majority of respondents said they are comfortable with church being filled at 50% capacity when re-opening

Majority of respondents have been members for 10+ years

81%

93%

Majority of respondents said they are vaccinated

Majority of respondents have attended a parking lot worship

65%

90%

Majority of respondents are OK with wearing masks when church re-opens

48% said they plan to attend virtually and in-person when church re-opens

43% of respondents said they will attend in-person when church re-opens



VOICES FROM THE CONGREGATION



“We miss being at church.”

I miss being in the house of God with my church family.

I miss attending church but I understand keeping the congregation safe.

I would appreciate the consideration of the psychological and emotional and spiritual effects not worshipping as a congregation together is having on a great many of us.

I look forward to when we worship together but I will follow the direction of the leadership of the church and pray God directs and blesses those decisions. 🙏

I miss my church family so much! But I can understand taking these precautions. We are a congregation made up of those with health disparities and we need to keep each other safe.

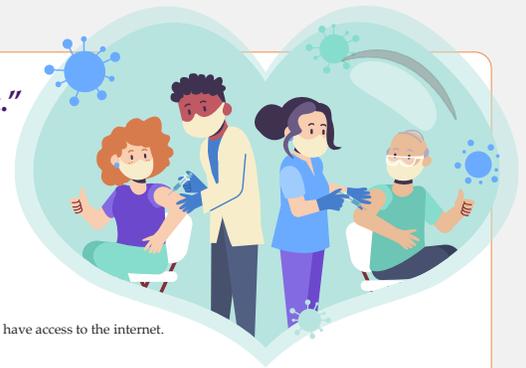
My wife and I feel comfortable with returning to in person service. We appreciate the caution but believe it's time to transition back to normal.

Ready to be United with Saints!

I need in-person worship. I've felt lost without it.

I am truly ready to attend church again! The leadership staff has done an awesome job over the last several months.

“Thank you for putting safety first.”



Thank you for your encouragement to get people vaccinated and for hosting clinics.

I'm not comfortable with the percentage overall population at this point who have not vaccinated. Especially the percentage of blacks.

Since some are refusing to get vaccinated I'm skeptical about returning to in-person worship.

Thanks for caring about the members needs and safety before just opening the church.

Thanks to Pastor and the leadership for providing the virtual services. Please continue virtual service even when the church reopens. To many people remain unvaccinated and some are not willing to return to church knowing the potential risks of the virus' continuous spreading. Thanks for your consideration of this request. Peace and blessings to you all.

Thank you for the consistency, food donations, assistance throughout the pandemic, and broadcasting service live on television for those who do not have access to the internet.

Love you Salem. You ROCK!?! 🙏👍🙏🙏🙏

Great job navigating our parishioners through this daunting time and taking necessary precautions.

I am not sure if I will return in September, but will return at a later date. I am High Risk and a little paranoid, so I am going to take it slow. Will probably do virtual until I feel comfortable.

Take Your Time!

I'm grateful that we are not rushing to return in person. I'm still nervous about the pandemic and am not completely sure it's over! Thank you for keeping us safe and considering all angles of the return to church.

We should be looking at the percentage of Black folks who have gotten the shot according to the Douglas County site. Black folks were the lowest. Until the percentage gets around 50%, I have concerns with Salem opening up without mask and social distancing.

Just want to thank Pastor and his staff on an outstanding job they have done during this time of uncertainty, thank you for Praying for us and keeping us safe, now it's time to return to church.

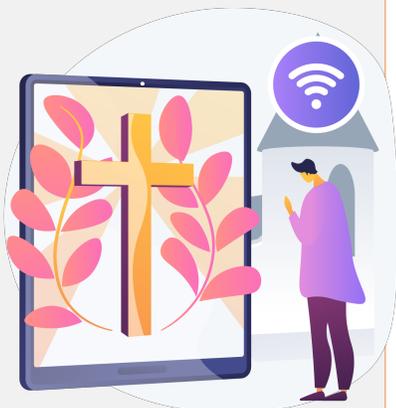
Thank you, Pastor Bachus for taking your time in opening the church. I am not sure quite what I will do right now. I will know better once September comes.

I think Salem has done well with not rushing back into the sanctuary. God charges us to be good Stewards not over just money but all things He has given us.

I think we should all wear masks because of low vaccination in the black neighborhood.

With only 25% of African Americans being vaccinated in Omaha, face coverings are not optional, they are a requirement.

Since African American communities have been hit harder than non-minority communities by the virus, I encourage the church to continue to take the return to in person service slowly.



“Virtual church is a blessing. Please continue offering even after in-person return.”

Will continue virtual worship as long as it is available until I return to in-person worship.

Please live stream the service live on YouTube more consistently and have the service uploaded there.

Keep virtual option, always.

Hope the virtual service is permanent even after we resume in-person service.

I hope Salem still keeps virtual worship available for the sick and shut-in. It has been so enjoyable.

I love how we navigated to a virtual environment and so appreciate the pastoral leadership and praise team for pushing forward to provide us a way to still worship together.

It has been such a blessing to still receive the word through other venues. No matter what, GOD is STILL GOOD and we need to continue everything in prayer.

My fear is the longer we're out of in-person service the more comfortable members will become staying home.

The virtual option is another great way to connect even post-pandemic. If you're not feeling well, traveling, you still have access.

For virtual church, I would love to see some past videos of services when we were at full capacity.

Even though the church has a tentative date in September and I did check to attend in person and virtual, I will attend virtual until I am ready to attend in person.