



Overview of New Normal Guidelines

Salem Family,

This pandemic has forever changed the way churches worship across the globe. Even so, God's church remains resilient and we continue to share a spirit of unity. In that spirit, we look forward to our return to in-person worship **Sunday, Sept. 19.**

The following New Normal guidelines are being shared with you in advance to help make the transition back to in-person worship as seamless as possible. For your convenience, we have recorded a [brief video series](#) that overviews our New Normal culture expectations. You can access it here: <https://salembc.org/returntoinperson/>

Worship Options

During Phase 1 of our return to in-person worship, we will hold two services: **one at 10 a.m. and one at noon each Sunday.**

For those of you who prefer to join us virtually, we will livestream both services. Join us in online worship Sundays at 9:55 a.m./**10 a.m. and at noon** via salembc.org, on 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.**

Worship Preparations

We have adopted additional sanitation measures to ensure the church is sanitized between each service. All door handles, surfaces in bathrooms and common areas will be cleaned before, in between and after services.

As you enter church, hand sanitizer kiosks are located in the foyer. You will be required to sanitize your hands before entering the sanctuary.

Masks Required

Prior to entering church, every person over the age of 2 years old must wear a face mask.

Because COVID-19 primarily spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, everyone who comes to church in person must wear their face mask.

Please let us know you came to church in-person

We have decided we **WILL NOT** use the EventBrite registration process upon our return.

Instead, we ask that each in-person worshipper do one of the following when you come to church on Sunday, Sept. 19.

Stop by one of the registration tables to give your name before going into the sanctuary:

OR

Bring your name on an index card and drop it into a basket near one of the greeter.

Your registration information will allow us to provide the health department with critical contact tracing information in the event we are notified about a positive COVID-19 case.

Social Distancing Inside the Church

Social distancing is an important part of preventing the spread of the virus. Floor decals have been placed in the area to serve as cues to remind us to distance.

We will also be socially distanced inside the sanctuary. People can still spread COVID-19 to others even if they do not feel sick. Vaccinated people may also carry and spread the virus. Some people do not display symptoms. Limiting close contact is the best way to reduce spread.

While at church, please adhere to the following:

- Remain at least 6 feet apart from other people
- Do not gather in common areas, including the foyer
- Sit only with members of your own household during worship

- Refrain from holding or shaking hands. Instead, use elbows, fist bumps or air hugs to greet one another.

Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk for getting sick. If you feel ill, please join us in the virtual sanctuary online instead of coming to church in person.

Prayer

During Phase 1, prayer will abide by the following social distancing recommendations:

- Rather than gathering at the altar for prayer, we ask that everyone remain at their seats and stand in place for prayer.
- ***For those who would like to join the church:***
 - In-person worshippers – visit the Welcome Center after church services to meet with a deacon for more information.
 - Virtual worshippers – call the church offices after service. The number is (402) 455-1000. Select Option 3.
- With the exception of families living in the same household, we ask that no hand holding take place during prayer. Instead, we are asking that you extend your hands toward the altar.

Communion

For communion, our deacons will stand at the sanctuary doors to disseminate communion elements. This will happen only on the 1st Sunday of each month.

On communion Sundays, we will not pass baskets or trays. Our ushers will have receptacles to collect communion waste as each worshipper exits.

Deacons will hand out giving envelopes to each person who would like one prior to entry. Those who give electronically should not take an envelope.

Exiting the Sanctuary

At the conclusion of services, we ask that you remain seated until you have been directed to exit by our ushers.

Bible Study, Book Store and Youth/Adult Ministries

The bookstore will remain closed during Phase 1 of re-entry. All youth/adult ministries and Bible Study will remain online during this phase.

Medical Services

Due to restrictions and precautions imposed on the church, we are modifying the level of medical services.

If a worshipper is not healthy enough to attend worship, **they should not attend worship.**

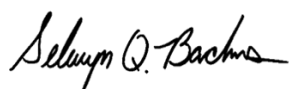
Only emergency level services will be provided to stabilize a member until paramedics arrive.

If a member must be isolated in the usher/medical services room, the room must be completely sanitized and allowed to dry to the touch prior to bringing the room back in service.

We extend our sincerest gratitude for your patience, flexibility and cooperation during this time. Please help us take care of one another and protect others by embracing these guidelines. While enhanced safety measures are being taken at Salem Baptist Church, please remember that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are gathered. Please continue to take the necessary precautionary measures to prevent the spread of this disease when you're at church and when you're out in public.

We love you. We miss you. We look forward to seeing you Sunday, Sept. 19!

Peace and blessings,



Pastor Selwyn Q. Bachus