

Seattle First Baptist Regathering Plan

Questions Asked, Responses Offered - June 2021

We know you are all anxious to hear how we plan to worship together, beginning Sunday, July 11. We are so excited to be together! Please know that this will be a gradual reopening for the safety of all. We know that there are many different levels of comfort and we will start out cautious and gradually return to normal operations.

When will church happen? Beginning Sunday, July 11th we will begin in-person worship at 11:00. The service will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. It will also be recorded for viewing at other times, and available on our website and Facebook page.

Do I need to sign up? No, we will have plenty of space for all to safely return.

What about masks? For now, we will enforce mask-wearing for **ALL** worshippers. You may wonder why fully vaccinated people can't attend without masks, or why can't we have a section for people fully vaccinated? Those are fair questions. Our staff and taskforce, considering recommendations from Washington State Dept. of Health and healthcare professionals, have decided that we will remain masked initially. You will see worship leaders remove masks when speaking from the chancel and while distanced from other leaders. **ALL WORSHIP LEADERS ARE FULLY VACCINATED.** Other than that, masks are always required during our worship service. We anticipate reviewing this policy and will likely have a new recommendation for August.

Can I come to church? We are not going to monitor vaccination status upon arrival, nor will we expect you to disclose your own vaccine status or health history. We ask that if you are sick or experiencing any symptoms of illness, or if you have been in contact with someone at risk of having COVID, that you watch from home. We also hope those who are un-vaccinated will watch from home. Please be thoughtful of your own risk, and others'. **We strongly urge all people who are eligible to choose vaccination.**

What will happen when I arrive? Parking will be completely different (See Below) Please put on your mask while you make your way to the Sanctuary doors on Harvard or Seneca. The elevator doors on Harvard will also be open. **The doors from the alley leading to the sanctuary and office building will be blocked.** When you get to the lobbies, a greeter will welcome you, and there will be an information table with a host who can answer questions and you can pick up a bulletin, assisted listening system, offering envelopes, etc.

Where do I sit? People, regardless of vaccination status, have different comfort levels in group settings and SFBC remains committed to having places for everyone in worship. As you enter the sanctuary, the sanctuary will be divided into two sections. The right section will be for those who are comfortable sitting close to all masked people. The left section will be for those who prefer more physical distance and will have every other pew marked off. We ask that you carefully respect those in this section and leave 6 feet between you and others. The center and left balcony will remain open for those who prefer even more separation. Children are welcome in the Wiggle Room.

What are those colored circles? On the welcome tables in the lobbies there will be color coded labels for you to easily indicate your comfort level with physical distancing. Red indicates that you prefer everyone maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance. Yellow indicates you are staying cautious -elbow taps only. Green means you are fully vaccinated and hugs and handshakes are welcome. Choose the color that best represents you. No judgment! Please respect everyone's level of comfort as we regather.

Can we sing?? Yes! Please fully enjoy worshipping together while continuing to wear your mask! Alleluia!

Can I bring my offering? We will collect the offering by dropping it in a locked box in either lobby as you enter or exit worship. You may also sign up for online giving at <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/donate.html>

Will we have coffee hour? We will not have coffee hour inside during July. If everything goes as planned, we we will begin in August.

What about Bathrooms? The bathrooms on the Sanctuary level (by the chapel and by the choir room) will be open. Please use these bathrooms during July. Please refrain from going downstairs for the first few weeks.

Can I hang out with my church family before and after worship? So that all worshippers can comfortably enter and exit while maintaining safe distance, please gather outside as appropriate to greet people and re-connect. Please do not stand in the lobbies or line-up to greet the pastors after worship.

For heaven's sake, where do I park? By now you likely know that parking will be significantly different when you return to worship on July 11th. We ask for the following things in this transition time:

- Please read this information. If you do not understand or have questions, reach out to Darren in the church office.
- Please follow the rules closely. Use of these three lots is mostly being donated. The owners of these lots have various restrictions, and if we do not honor them, **we will no longer be able to use these resources.**
- Please arrive early the first time you come on Sunday morning. If you have problems or need information, staff members will be onsite to direct you.
- Please be patient. This will be a big learning experience and transition for all. We have worked hard for a smooth process, but there may be a few issues to work out.
- The main Poly Clinic lot has asked us NOT to put up directional signs on the street so it will be helpful if you make sure you know where the entrance is. (See Below)

There are two lots available:

1) **Seneca Dental Lot (8 spaces) for cars with official handicapped permits displayed. (422 Seneca Street. Corner of Seneca and Harvard)**

To use this lot you must have an official state issued handicap permit AND a permit from the office which is valid for a year. Contact the church office ASAP to have an SFBC permit mailed to you. If you do not have an official handicapped permit but will have significant difficulty walking from the Poly Clinic and do not have a driver who can drop you off at the church, let the church office know and we will issue you a permit for this lot **if there is space available.**

2) **Poly Clinic Lot (200+ spaces) for general parking and staff parking. (1145 Broadway just south of East Union)**

This is the easiest lot to use. You will be given a permanent pass when you arrive the first time. After that, just display the permit on your window when you arrive on Sunday mornings. Please note that at no time may church members or guests enter the building or use the elevators. This is a very strict provision for our continued use.

On a regular Sunday this Summer both lots are available from 9:30-1:30. Extended hours may be available for special events and will be advertised with each event.

If you need an SFBC pass for the Seneca Dental lot, please contact the church office ASAP by e-mailing contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org or calling 206-325-6051. You may also direct questions to darren@seattlefirstbaptist.org