



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF BROWNSVILLE

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Reverend Reginald Belton, Senior Pastor

Letter to the Congregation Details of Our Partial Reopening for Easter Sunday 2021

It has been a year since we have been able to gather together as a congregation for worship. While many of us did not expect our separation to have lasted as long as it has, The Lord has continued to bless our congregation through virtual worship, prayer meetings, Bible Study, Women's Ministry, Deacon communities; as well as the coordination of COVID testing, vaccine appointments, food distributions and other related activities. Yes, we have experienced an extended time of away from the physical church of Christ on earth. Yet, we have managed by the grace of God to hold on as we are slowly coming out of an unprecedented time in our country.

Praise Him for this sweet mercy!

As we look forward to coming together this Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, we want to make you aware of what that will look like. In consultation with the Deacons and Ministry leaders in our church, we have tried to take into account, all the variables of the "new normal" in order to gather again safely in these unusual times. Following various CDC and state guidelines with regard to the virus and providing a safe environment for corporate worship in the sanctuary, it has not been easy to balance. We seek your prayers and patience as we navigate the changing tides at this time. Things will be different but, we hope that these necessary changes and adjustments will be temporary and provide safety for everyone. We will continue to evaluate the situation and make adjustments as needed.

We welcome your feedback.

Details and Guidelines for Easter Sunday Worship Services at FBCB

SERVICES:

We will be offering two, abbreviated services (8:30am and 10:30am) to achieve proper social distancing in the sanctuary. Doors will open 30 minutes before each service. The 10:30am service will be streamed/video. Each service will have a limited capacity of 60 (in accordance with the percentage mandated by NYS) and so you must register for the time of service you will be attending. Online registration is open and will close on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

You may click [**here**](#) to register for your desired service time.

If you do not have internet access, you must register by calling the church at 718-498-1074.

Please leave your name, a working telephone number, the time of service you would like to attend and the number of people who will be attending with you. We will notify you if we reach capacity for the service that you are registering for so that you can determine if live streaming or video will suit your needs.

ENTERING AND SEATING:

You must enter the building using the **Chester Street entrance ONLY**. Bathrooms, Nursing Room, Welcome Center and Sanctuary will be open and accessible. **All other spaces will be closed and that includes the church offices.**

Upon entering the building, you are required to wear a face mask, which must remain on during the service. If you forget or do not have one, we will have them available, along with hand sanitizer, at the Chester Street entrance. Your temperature will be checked to ensure that you or anyone else does not have a fever. **Should your temperature indicate fever, please understand that for the safety of everyone, you will be directed to join the live stream service on Facebook or YouTube at 10:30am in the comfort of our home.**

As different rows may be utilized for both services, you will be directed by the Ushers and/or Security team to designated pews. We ask that you practice social distancing while on church grounds (no handshakes, hugs, close contact, etc.). We also encourage parents to adequately supervise their children so that they do not roam through the church building.

Exiting and Cleaning:

At the conclusion of each service, you will exit the building promptly, so that the sanctuary and other areas are cleaned for the 10:30am service. You will be directed by the Ushers and Security Team, to exit through the **Livonia Avenue door ONLY**. We ask that if you fellowship with others, you do so outside of the building and maintain social distancing.

ATTENDANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Please exercise wisdom in deciding whether or not you will attend.

- If you are ill in any way, especially if you are experiencing symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell, **please stay home.**
- If you fit the categories of high risk for this virus (i.e., aged 65+ or immuno-compromised) or if you are simply not comfortable gathering in a large group at this time, please feel no pressure to return and take advantage of the live stream.

Should you have any questions, please contact the church at 7178-498-1074 OR email Pastor Belton.

We are so looking forward to worshiping together Easter Sunday 2021. Let us prepare our hearts, even now, for this time of celebration and opportunity for the Lord to feed our souls through song, fellowship, prayer and his word.

Amazed by His Grace,
Reverend Reginald Belton, Pastor