



810 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Warner, OK 74469  
918-463-2380 (Office Phone)  
[fbcw@crosstel.net](mailto:fbcw@crosstel.net) (Church Email)

4/27/20

Dear Church Member,

We appreciate your continued participation in worship, prayers, giving, and cooperation during these difficult and trying times. COVID-19 has caused us to change the way we do ministry, **but it has not stopped the church or hindered the Kingdom of God in the least!**

Our staff, along with our deacon body, has been prayerfully seeking the face and wisdom of God in looking at when and how we reopen church doors. It will look different for every church, but in faith we know God is paving a way for every congregation to assemble back together!

Please review our attached plan titled: ***“Reopening, Restoring, and Rejoicing.”*** We will mail this to you, and you can find this plan on our church website: [www.warnerfbc.org](http://www.warnerfbc.org).

In Christ,

Blaine Ross  
Associate Pastor 918.441.1035 (cell)

## Reopening, Restoring, Rejoicing

**“Work like it depends on you, pray like it depends on God.”**

—Mark Batterson, National Community Church

The big question for pastors and church leaders nationwide lately has been: “What does reopening our doors look like?” After much prayer and research, our plan to reopen can be summed up in 3 key words:

### **“REOPENING, RESTORING, REJOICING”**

Consider this our church's own 3 phase plan of how and when to reopen. Here is the big picture proposal, followed by more intricate details on the following pages:

#### PHASE 1: REOPENING:

**Church doors will officially reopen on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 AM**

*Morning worship only at this time; main east and south entrances ONLY*

*Families will sit together during our initial reopening phase*

*Nursery will be opened and closely monitored by a 2 person team*

#### PHASE 2: RESTORING:

*This phase will focus on restoring all classes, groups, and midweek activities for students  
We will meet on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, tentatively, to discuss class and group restoration.*

#### PHASE 3: REJOICING:

*We will host a big “Celebration Sunday” at the end of all this, rejoicing in the Lord's goodness and faithfulness! VICTORY OVER THE VIRUS!*

# **PHASE 1: REOPENING**

**Reopening church doors for morning worship only will be Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 AM.**

Here are some procedures and guidelines we will be initiating during this first phase:

- Foyer, sanctuary, nursery and bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by our janitorial staff prior to and after services.
  - Includes pews, hymnals, doorknobs, light switches, microphones
- Hand sanitizer will be available and required at south and entrances.
- Pre-service coffee and donuts will be suspended during phase one.
- As required/recommended by our state government:
  - Every other row/pew will be available for seating—pews and individual pews will be clearly marked with ushers available for assistance.
  - We will adhere to all CDC social distancing and sanitation guidelines.
  - Please read through CDC guidelines and act in wisdom as the Lord leads.
- Our nursery will be available starting May 17<sup>th</sup> under the close supervision and leadership of our nursery coordinator. Our nursery coordinator, along with 1 other person on our nursery rotation list, will handle all nursery operations at this time.
- Bulletins/Prayer lists will be strategically placed on rows/pews/tables prior to the start of service. No person-to-person handing out of materials.
- Our Joash Chest will be set up in the foyer for tithing/giving opportunities.
- No Children's Church during our phase one; appropriate age coloring material will be available as needed for our 3 to 4-year old's as they sit w/their families.
- Worship in song will be conducted w/limited congregants onstage; still adhering to the 6ft social distancing guidelines.
- Invitation will be conducted with congregants remaining seated. Those in need of counseling or desiring to discuss decisions can fill out an invitation card to leave in their pew or wait for a one-on-one time w/the pastor after all congregants have exited the building.
- Ushers will dismiss congregants by section to help avoid large group contact.
- If you are sick, are feeling sick, or have a temperature of 99.4 or greater we ask that you stay home and worship w/us online.

## **PHASE 2: RESTORING**

After our initial “reopening” phase, we will then move on to phase 2 which is restoring our Sunday morning classes/groups, our evening Life Groups, and all midweek activities for our students and children.

Here are some phase 2 tentative dates that we are considering as of right now:

- Sunday AM classes/groups will resume on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> for all ages.
- Evening LifeGroups will meet the last Sunday of the month in June, July, and August, and will be back on a weekly schedule beginning in September.
  - We will act safely and wisely where food and snacks are concerned. Feel free to bring your own snack and drink if you wish!
- Midweek activities for students will resume on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Students who are sick, feeling sick, or have a temperature of 99.4 or greater will need to stay home for the wellbeing and safety of others.
  - Weather permitting, we will have our midweek student gatherings outdoors—smores and tailgating in the south parking lot.
  - This will allow us to thoroughly clean the student building and train all of our adult volunteers before we assemble back into the building.
  - In-house/at-home Youth Camp will be June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Children’s activities will resume with our in-house/at-home Kid’s Camp June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Mandatory Parent/Camper meeting will be Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.**
- When we begin restoring classes, groups, and midweek worship experiences:
  - Teachers and volunteers will find an easy-to-use guide, printed and taped “COVID Care Guide” These are helpful suggestions for every teacher and small group leader. Please read and act as you best see fit for your class.
  - Meeting spaces need to be arranged *to the best of our ability* in a way that adheres to the CDC social distancing guidelines. The spacing of chairs is the most important thing to consider here.
  - Printed material should be placed on the tables in front of designated chairs prior to the start of class. (No hand-to-hand passing out

of material)

## PHASE 3 REJOICING

Our third and final phase of "Rejoicing" will take place after phases 1 and 2. After we have a chance to restore all facets of worship and ministry, we want to have a HUGE "Celebration Sunday," rejoicing and celebrating the Lord's goodness, faithfulness, and victory over the virus!

Here are a few things we might consider regarding Phase 3:

- Possible date: July has the potential to be hectic w/one wedding, possibly Falls Creek, 1-day Kid's Camp, and VBS the last week of the month. We may consider moving our day of rejoicing even later.
- Personal Testimonies: We want to know how God has moved in the lives of His people during this pandemic! We will consider morning and evening testimonies from church members as they feel led to share.
- Music: What a great time to sing and hear songs (older and newer) that speak of victory, hope, healing, and a steadfast faith in the Lord!
- FOOD: We want our time of rejoicing to be when we feel comfortable serving a BIG meal, whether it'd be potluck or something else! Perhaps we can fire up the grill for some burgers, dogs, brats, and whatever else?!



What does leading up to Phase 1 look like for the next few Sundays?

Here are some ideas worth considering:

- Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we're kicking off a series titled "Kingdom Unleashed." This will be another regular online service, be sure to join us online and worship in spirit!
- Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, is...MOTHER'S DAY! With it being Mother's Day and our last Sunday before reopening doors, why not have one more awesome drive-in service to honor our mothers? Parking and set up will be just like we had at our Easter service; 10:30 AM parking and 11:00 AM service time.
  - *NOTE: We will be celebrating our 2020 senior class on this day as well! They will get to walk across the trailer and receive their gifts! Be watching our church Facebook page for more senior class recognition!*

*Please pray over the items presented in this proposal, ask the Holy Spirit to give you peace in your heart concerning areas you may disagree with, and let's move forward in one accord for the good of the Church and to the glory of God!*

*-Pastor Blaine*

