

South Tulsa Baptist Church - Reopening Process

COVID-19 Response | April 29, 2020

- Reopening our church services, programs, and facilities will not happen at a single point, but rather through a process.
- We will base our process on what is best in our context and the health/safety of our vulnerable population - under the leadership of our Ministry Staff, Health Team, and Advisory Council.
- We will use all church communication outlets to keep membership and community informed about each step in the process.
- The prayers of righteous people are powerful and effective (James 5:16). Keep praying for God's Kingdom to come on Earth as it is in Heaven. Keep praying for people, our church, our community, our state, our nation, and the entire world.
- We will continue to have ministers on call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week for spiritual and emotional counseling, pastoral care, and prayer. Telecommunication appointments are available any day of the week. In-person appointments will follow our office schedule below with exceptions being made for cases of critical physical or emotional health concerns or the loss of a loved one. Email the church office at info@southtulsa.org or contact by phone (918) 299-0904.

SPECIFIC AREAS

Worship

- Online-only services will continue throughout the month of May. A determination will be made regarding services in June at the end of May.
- The goal of coming back together in person will take into account when "meaningful gatherings" are possible in a safe manner.
- Adults and children will be strongly encouraged to wear cloth or surgical masks during these gatherings. Masks will be available at the Welcome Center for those who enter facilities without them.
- Factors related to returning to worship include:
 1. Social-distancing guidelines
 2. The safety of corporate singing
 3. Sufficient time and manpower to clean areas before and after all gatherings
- Choir and Orchestra will likely not return immediately when public worship resumes. Because these groups sing and play instruments in close proximity to others, they will resume at a time our ministers and health team deems to be safe.

Bible Study

- Bible Studies will be encouraged to keep meeting on Zoom throughout the month of May.
- Beginning May 17, Bible Study Groups and other groups may reserve space where social-distancing is possible. These spaces may include outdoor areas, Chapel, Fellowship Hall, Gym, Student Room, or Worship Center. These spaces will be made available in time slots that can ensure proper cleaning and preparation. Groups will select a point person(s) to meet with facilities management and agree to social distancing guidelines.
- A determination will be made regarding more Bible study options for June at the end of May.

Preschool and Children's Areas

- Our preschool and children's areas will remain closed through the month of May. A determination will be made regarding June at the end of May.
- These areas will not reopen until we can ensure we are past [Phase 3 of the federal guidelines](#)

signaling a safe environment for adults and children to be in close proximity together.

- In the meantime, our staff will be working on innovative ways to equip parents further for discipleship in homes and to have events for children and preschoolers in a safe manner during the summer.

Church Office

- The church offices will remain closed to the public until Monday, May 18.
- On Monday, May 4, ministers and staff may return to the office in shifts of less than 10 people, practicing social distancing and sanitization of all areas where work is being done.
- When it is established that Tulsa is safely in Phase 3 of the federal guidelines for reopening, a determination will be made about reopening the office fully.

Building Usage

- The building will remain closed to all outside groups throughout the month of May. A determination will be made regarding June at the end of May.
- All food and beverage in church facilities is suspended through the month of May. Alternative options such as non-contact meals distributed outside the building will be considered. A determination will be made regarding June at the end of May.
- Updated building cleaning and preparation procedures will be published and agreed to by any person or groups who uses building.
- Contractors will go through the Administrative office and adhere to strict procedures for the safety of all others who use the building.

Early Learning Program Preschool

- ELP currently has a summer session planned for the month of July 2020. A decision regarding this session will be made by June 1, 2020.

- Changes will likely be made to pick-up and drop-off procedures.

Events/Activities

- All major Church Events have been canceled through May and June, and until further notice. This includes major events like Student Choir Tour, SMAK/PreSMAK, Falls Creek and VBS. This also includes other events such as lunches and fellowships. This decision has not been made lightly, but we believe to be in the best interest of safety.
- Our Family Ministry Team is looking at alternative options for some of our key events in July, August, or the Fall, depending on church reopening process.
- A decision for resuming events after June will be made on month-to-month and week-to-week basis.
- All off-campus meetings/activities of any kind will follow the same guidelines as our main campus and must be approved by our ministry staff.

The Ministry Center

- The Ministry Center will reopen Wednesday, April 29, on a limited, drive-thru basis for food only until further notice. Volunteers will be limited to the smallest possible group.
- The Ministry Center facility will be reopened according to the same process as the main church campus facilities.

Jenks CarePoint*

- Jenks CarePoint will remain closed to the public through the month of May but will continue to provide resources to those in need through pick-up or delivery.
- The Jenks CarePoint facility will be reopened according to the same process as the main church campus facilities.

** It should be noted that Jenks CarePoint is governed by board leadership and not solely by South Tulsa Baptist Church.*