

Hello Faith Church family!

We are so excited to worship together in person in our beautiful sanctuary! To say it bluntly, I can't wait to be there with you! We've certainly missed everyone very much. However, we also realize that there are many who want to come back, but don't yet feel it is safe to do so. I completely understand and respect your decision to stay home until you are ready to return. We will certainly miss seeing you there. Please know that we're going to continue to provide our worship services online via our streaming service on our website at [www.faithum.com/livestream](http://www.faithum.com/livestream) and on Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/FaithChurchFortMyers](https://www.facebook.com/FaithChurchFortMyers)

As we prepare for Sunday, I ask that you remember that worship is going to look very different than it did before the onset of the pandemic. Our Re-Launch Task Force has worked very hard to ensure that we can safely worship together. Please make sure to review the following list so that you'll be prepared for the changes ahead. Obviously, we're hoping that one day we'll be able to stop doing some of these things. But for now, this will be the new norm for worship at Faith Church.

- **One Service Only!** – Please note that there will be just one combined service at 10:00 a.m.
- **Register to attend** – We ask that you register in advance each week on Eventbrite.com. Here is the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-church-of-fort-myers-in-person-worship-service-tickets-121041116237>  
**Steps to register:**
  1. Click on the link and click on the orange “Select a Date” button.
  2. Click on the “Tickets” button for the date you plan to attend in-person worship.
  3. Use the drop down menu to choose the number of people who plan to attend.
  4. Click on the orange “Register” button.
  5. Fill in your name and email address and click “Register”
- **Masks** – Every parishioner will be required to wear masks. If this is something that you'd prefer not to do, or cannot do because of medical reasons, we ask that you stay home and worship with us online.

- **All Sections Open** – We'll have all sections open to facilitate a safe environment in which to worship.
- **Six feet between you and me!** – Social distancing will be the rule for worship. We'll have pews marked off so that you'll know which ones are open. Additionally, we ask that each party (one or more people) have at least 4 cushions between them and the next party. That way, families and couples can sit together while still being 6 feet away from others.
- **Wash up!** – We will have hand sanitizer stations available and would also ask that you make sure to wash your hands when you visit the restrooms.
- **Offering** – we will continue to worship the Lord through the giving of tithes and offerings. We will not be passing baskets during the worship service. But we will have offering boxes located in the main lobby and the small lobby at the entrance closest to Thornton Rd.
- **We love kids!** – Children are welcome to join us in worship in the sanctuary! For now, we won't have Children's Church for our kids. Instead, we'll have a special time made just for them included in the worship service.
- **Holy Communion** – We will *not* be having communion every week. This decision saddens me, but I believe it's what is needed for now. It is my desire to return to celebrating Holy Communion every week as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.
- **Ushers are there to help keep you safe!** – When you come to worship, ushers will be present to greet you and help you to get used to our new (hopefully temporary) way of doing things. They will be able to point you to where to pick up a mask if you don't have one. Or, they might ask you to scoot over a seat or two if you don't have six feet between you and your neighbor. Please honor their kind instruction as they are there to help keep us all safe. I'm asking for your grace, kindness, and love toward everyone present. Let's practice loving our neighbor by keeping each other safe.
- **Singing in Worship** – This is another area of worship that will look very different than our usual practice. Obviously, it would be difficult to sing with masks on. Additionally, infectious disease experts recommend that there be *no singing* in sanctuaries as it greatly increases the chances of spreading the virus. Therefore, we will listen to music with an attitude of worship. You might even be invited to worship through different means like applause, meditating on the verses of the songs you hear, or some other

creative measure. Anderson is praying about this and working diligently to lead us in worship through music in inventive and meaningful ways.

- **Things are subject to change!** – The pandemic forces us to live in a state of fluidity. We are listening to the advice of scientific and medical experts as we navigate these strange waters. If things look like they're getting worse and the experts recommend reverting back to online worship only, we may have to make the difficult decision to do so. Obviously, we're hoping this won't be the case. Conversely, when things begin to get better, we'll take their advice on how and when to start doing again the things we had to lay aside.

Finally, I'm writing to ask you for grace, patience, and prayers. I know that we're all anxious to get back to the way things used to be. Unfortunately, it may be a long while before that happens, if ever. There is a very strong chance that the way we do church could be forever changed. But the good news is that God is faithful and is with us through it all. How we worship on Sunday mornings might change, but the love of God for God's people, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in God's people is always certain.

Like the psalmist says in Psalm 100, "...the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever" so we will gather to "make a joyful noise to the Lord."

God bless you all. See you soon!

In Christ,

Pastor Dennis