

Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church

Strategic Plan for An Orderly Return



The Strategic Plan for an orderly return to the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church

Ever since the country learned that states were going to begin reopening businesses and commerce, the church has been elated that it will once again be able to gather together again very soon. Anticipation is high, although concerns remain about just how quickly to get “back to normal.”

I don't know of any church leader who is looking to return with a “business as usual” mindset. We could rush in where angels fear to tread, but why? Perhaps we should apply I Corinthians 14:40-43 to our present situation: “Let everything be done decently and in order...since God is not a God of disorder...” While the verses refer to orderliness in the worship experience, the principle of orderliness in God's house can be applied to the church's return to its facilities.

This is our moment to celebrate our return not just to the campus, but to one another. As we return to one another on campus and in our Bible study groups, orderliness and thoughtfulness will win the day. We are under shepherds of God's people. As under shepherds, one of our chief roles is that of protector. Shepherds in biblical times had to be prepared to defend the flock against predators and thieves. Shepherds were temporary stewards of their master's sheep, and we are no different. As church leaders, we shepherd God's people, and a large part of our role is to protect, to anticipate, and to act on behalf of the sheep entrusted to us by God.

To be orderly and not disorderly, let's think about returning to the Lord's house in a planned and organized way.

There will be some overlap in the plan and ministries. One area will prepare the way for the next, but each area will continue to build on previous ones. Ultimately we will succeed in returning to our church buildings. I believe ultimately we will be a better church. We're already reaching more people online in both worship and in Bible study groups – I hear that from leaders all over the country. We've pivoted quickly as the church, and we are learning new ways of ministry.

Our church, as well as other churches is going to look back on this moment in church history and remember these days – they are days of a paradigm shift that we haven't seen before. My mother once told me she could vividly remember what she was doing when she heard that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. I can remember what I was doing when I learned that Michael Jackson had died. I imagine you remember what you were doing when you learned the twin towers had collapsed because of terrorist attacks. We will all remember COVID-19 and how it changed us and our churches.

The goal is to “do things decently and in order” and to have a plan that we can use that work for our congregation. Our focus is to return in the spirit of revival, not in the spirit of survival.

Key Focus: Returning to the Building

Key Issues in this Phase: LOGISTICS/SAFETY/PROTECTION PLAN:

- Worship attendance capacity: (7:45am; 200; 10:45am 200) due to physical distancing.

- Members and guests are expected to wear masks and practice physical distancing 5 to 6 feet.
 - Temperatures will be checked by healthcare ministry at 7:45am and 10:45am worship experiences
 - Temperature checks will be done in front of the sanctuary entrance.
 - All members and guests attending worship will need to have their temperature checked
 - Members or guests with temperatures of 99 and above will be asked to return home and watch on live streaming

Clerk Team: Designated clerk members will be positioned at the front entrance, 2nd ave entrance, and the educational building to take contact information of worshippers (e.g. name, address, contact info.)

- Harris Hall or Julia Fredrick banquet Hall will be used for overflow in order to accommodate members and guests due to physical distancing. When maximum designated capacity is reached, worshippers and guests will be sent to the overflow areas, or ask to return for the next worship experience
- Doors to the sanctuary will be propped open to avoid contact with handles.
 - Once members or guests enter vestibule sanitizing stations will be available to sanitize hands.
 - Members and guests will be ask to follow directions of ushers to designated areas for seating.
 - Ushers have marked pews using CDC, Department of Public Health 5 to 6 feet physical distancing recommendations.
 - To avoid physical congestion members and guests will be ask to be patient and give persons in front of them 5 to 6 feet distance before moving forward.
 - Restrooms we are asking to practice 5 to 6 feet distance.
 - Wash hands before entering back to sanctuary.

Sanctuary will be cleaned and sanitized prior to returning to the sanctuary. Sanctuary also will be sanitized between Worship experiences. To provide quality air circulated in the sanctuary and Christian education building. An ionization filter will be installed into the heating and air condition units.

WORSHIP

- Welcoming members and guests back to the campus; all entries to the sanctuary will be from 5th ave. side. The exception will be elderly and handicap drop off on the 2nd Ave. side.
- Temperature takers will be stationed at the elderly/handicap entrance on 2nd Ave. of the church
- Seating- ushers will lead all worshippers to their seat.
 - All seating will be from front to back pew.
 - All seating will be every other pew.

- Right side from pulpit, first pew designated for deaf ministry.
- Center of pulpit, first pew designated for those coming to give their life to Christ or unite.
- Usher positioned at door entrance will direct worshippers to seating; left, center or right side. He/she will be directed by another usher in that area to their seat.
- Collecting offerings will continue through the three (3) methods already being used.
 - Givelify
 - Mail-in
 - Drop off (4 drop off boxes will be placed in the sanctuary. One at each entrance, worshippers can drop their tithe/love/benevolence/mission bound offerings in the box entering worship or exiting worship on each Sunday.
 - Plan for exiting the sanctuary one entrance, dismiss by rows
- Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pews, songs will be displayed on the screens
- Order of worship programs will not be printed. Order of worship will be displayed on the screens.
- Children will remain with their parent(s), guardian, foster parent, in the pews during children period.
- First Sunday Communion cups will be left in the pews during 7:45a.m and 10:45a.m. for worshippers in the sanctuary. Those watching during live streaming will at the appropriate time use bread, crackers, and juice at home.
- Church temperature control-Members to be advised to bring their own wraps, sweaters and/or jackets in the event the sanctuary is too cool.
- We will continue Live streaming via
 - Facebook Live
 - 4thst.website
 - 4thst.you tube
 - We encourage members and guests to tune in each Sunday to our Television ministry WRBL channel 3 @ 8:30am
 - Radio ministry morning of praise David Broadcasting channel 104.9 @ 8:00am

DEACON MINISTRY

- Deacons will lead by example wearing masks and having temperatures checked before entering the sanctuary
- Deacons will lead by example practicing physical distancing keeping 5 to 6 feet
- Deacons will lead by example helping in any area needed during the worship experience
- **Devotion:** 7:45a.m. & 10:45a.m.no more than five (5) deacons leading devotion practicing 5 to 6 feet physical distancing.
- Deacons will place prepackaged communion elements in the holders in the designated pews on Saturday before each 1st Sunday.

DEACON WIVES MINISTRY

- Deacon wives will lead by wearing masks and having temperatures checked before entering the sanctuary
- Deacon wives will lead by practicing physical distancing physical distancing keeping 5 to 6 feet
- Deacon wives will lead by preparing the communion table on Saturday before each 1st Sunday

MUSIC MINISTRY

- The music ministry will phase in with an ensemble at both 7:45 am & 10:45am each Sunday
- The music ministry ensemble will get temperatures checked prior to entering sanctuary and wear masks
- Will practice physical distancing 5-6 feet while in the church and choir stand

USHERS MINISTRY

- All ushers will get temperature checked prior to entering sanctuary
- All ushers will wear mask
- Ushers will lead all members and guests to be seated
- Ushers will be positioned at door entrance and will direct worshippers to seating, left, center or right side
- Ushers will direct members or guests to another usher in the area to direct them to their seat
- Ushers will be positioned in vestibule to provide gentle reminders to practice CDC guidelines
- Ushers will be positioned on the 2nd Ave. side to assist handicap and elderly members to their seat
- Ushers will be positioned in the balcony to seat members and guests

Safety Ministry

- **Safety team will arrive at the church at 7:00a.m.**
- **Safety team will have mask to protect members/guest and themselves**
- **Safety team will have temperature taken before entering buildings**
- **Safety team will practice physical distancing 5 to 6 feet**
- **Safety team will encourage members/guests upon arrival to practice physical distancing**
- **Safety team will have team members visible in the parking lot at 7:45a.m. & 10:45a.m. worship prepared to receive members and guest upon arrival**
- **Safety team will direct members/guests to the designated area to have temperature taken before entering the vestibule**
- **Safety team member will be assigned to the front office monitoring the entire campus via our security monitoring system.**
- **Safety team member will notify designated safety team members of late worshippers**
- **Once designated safety team members are notified of late worshippers. The designated person from the healthcare ministry will be notified in the vestibule. The designated healthcare person will come outside and take late worshippers temperature.**

- If capacity has been reached in the main sanctuary and the worshippers temperature is o.k. the safety team member will direct the late worshippers to the designated overflow areas (e.g. Julia Fredrick Banquet Hall first, secondly to Harris Hall)
- If worshippers temperature is 99 and above worshippers will be directed by the healthcare person to return home and contact their physician and join with us through virtual worship

Christ World for Children Nursery

Carol's Nursery

- The nursery reopening will be phased in later after the members and guests return face to face to the church campus
- Training by a qualified Quality Rated Daycare Academy director will provide training for all nursery volunteer staff prior to phasing in reopening nursery
- CDC orders, governor's orders will be posted in a visual place where parents can review them
- CDC orders, governor's orders and operations manual will be provided where volunteer staff can also review them
- Once the nursery is reopened, all volunteer staff will wear masks, temperature checked, wash hands frequently w/hot water and soap
- Hand sanitizer will be used after changing a diaper; followed by hand washing
- Parents and children temperatures will be taken before entering nursery
- If temperature is 99+ adult/child will be asked to return home
- Volunteer staff will be expected throughout the day to frequently sanitize the areas to keep areas clean and germ free as possible
- All surfaces will be wiped down with Clorox wipes or sanitized solution (counter, tables, door knobs, toys etc.)
- All toys like stuffed animals that hold germs and unable to wipe clean after it's been touched will be removed
- Ages 1-4 year old will remain in the nursery
- Ages 5&6 year old will remain with parents
- Once nursery is reopen implementing CDC precautionary methods: phasing in only 5 children will be in nursery at one time
- The volunteer staff will help assess and determine when more children will be allowed in the nursery

Transportation Ministry

- Transportation ministry will resume providing transportation one (1) month after the return back to the Lord's house
- Transportation volunteers will make sure vans are sanitized
- Transportation volunteers will make sure hand sanitizer is in the van for use by van riders

- **Transportation volunteers will make sure windows in the vans are open to provide ventilation**
- **Van riders will be spaced out in the van practicing 5ft. to 6ft. distancing**
- **All van riders must wear mask before entering the van**

Healthcare Ministry

- **Healthcare team will arrive for 7:45am worship at 7:00am**
- **Healthcare team will be positioned at the front entrance of the sanctuary to provide temperature checks for 7:45am and 10:45am worshippers.**
- **Healthcare team will be setup on 2nd Ave. side to provide temperature checks for 7:45am and 10:45am worshippers.**
- **Members or guests entering the sanctuary must have a temperature of 98 or less**
- **Members or guests with temperatures of 99 and above will be ask to return back home and join us virtually**

Hospitality Ministry

- **Hospitality Ministry will be phased back in one (1) month after the return back to the Lord house**

