

Reentry FAQs:

Frequently Asked Questions for Reentry into the sanctuary



When will in person Sunday Services resume?

Sunday, September 27 at 9:00.

What if I decide not to return to in-person services right now?

Please know that your FBC family understands that some people may not yet be ready to return to in person services for a number of reasons. Online services will continue for those not ready to return.

Other churches in our area have been open for a while. Why did this process take so long at FBC?

The Reentry Team thanks you for your patience as we worked through this process. Like many of you, we are all anxious to return to our church home for worship but realize that we needed to do it so safely. We began and ended each meeting in prayer asking for guidance and took our time cover all safety issues as thoroughly as possible for the specific needs of Friendship.

What safety processes will be in place for Sunday Services?

- * All people attending Sunday services will be screened for temperature, symptoms, and contact with possibly infected people before entering the building. Those who do not pass the screening process will not be allowed to enter the sanctuary.
- * People who pass the screening will be seated by the ushers who will manage seating people at safe distances.
- * All congregants will wear masks while they are in the building.
- * Hand sanitizer will be available and congregants will be encouraged to use it before entering the sanctuary.
- * There will be no Bibles or hymnals in the pews. Please bring your own Bible to service if you'd like.

What can I do to maintain my safety and the safety of others?

Please wear your mask at all times when in the building. Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. There will be hand wipes available for you to wipe down any surfaces you may touch. In general, please be aware of safety precautions and social distancing requirements.

How many people will be allowed in the church building at one time?

NY State COVID guidelines dictate that building occupancy may be at 33% of normal occupancy. For our building, this means there may be no more than 41 people in the sanctuary and 34 in the fellowship hall at one time. For Sunday services, please plan to arrive early to go through the screening process. Seating will be on a first-come first-serve basis. Unfortunately, once the capacity of 41 and 34 people has been reached, all others will be asked to attend services virtually from their homes.

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How will social distancing be enforced?

- * Ushers will seat people upon entering the sanctuary.
- * The praise team and band will be spaced 6 feet apart and away from the congregation.
- * The first rows of pews will be left empty. After that, every other row will be used for seating. Three to four people (depending on relationships) will be seated in a pew.
- * The back walls will be open and the fellowship hall will be set up with chairs that will be placed 6 feet apart.
- * Congregants will be asked to remain at their places during the service. If a person must get up, an usher will help them move around the sanctuary while maintaining social distancing.
- * Pastor will remain in the pulpit during the service.
- * Ushers will manage exiting from the building at the end of service.

Will the restroom be open during the service?

Yes. The restrooms will be open during the service. All restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned before services and after the service. There will be cleaning supplies in the restroom for those who would like to wipe down surfaces before or after use. There will also be signs informing you of the number of people who should be in the restroom at the same time.

What happens if I have to leave the building but plan to return?

Please communicate with the ushers if you leave the building during the service and are planning to return. You may be prescreened upon reentry.

Will there be Sunday School or programs for children, including nursery, during the service?

Not at this time, due to the risks of children getting closer than 6 feet and possibility of having difficulty seeing and/or using masks. All children will be counted in the total number of people in the building and need to please stay with the adults who brought them.

When will other church programs restart in the building?

Our Pastor will ultimately determine the timing for the reentry of other programs.

Will virtual services still be available when services resume in the sanctuary?

Yes. The FBC Connect Team will still be working hard to continue to the virtual service as well as continuing with Zoom Bible study and other virtual programs you have been enjoying.

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How can I continue to offer my tithes and giving?

Please continue to give as you have been. If you feel the need to give in person during Sunday service, please use the offering envelopes provided to you by the church. Envelopes will be available at the check-in table and there will be a basket available for you to deposit your offering as you exit the church at the end of the service.

What will happen if someone who has been in church later tests positive for COVID?

The reentry team will be keeping a list of everyone in attendance at each Sunday service. Those in attendance the same day as the person who tests positive will be notified. They will be advised to contact their health care provider. (No identifying information of the person who tests positive will be provided.)

What should I do if I have attended in person services and then develop symptoms and/or test positively for COVID?

Please contact Sister Paulette. You may email her at corningfbc@gmail.com or call (607) 937-5705. We will then contact all those who were in the church as the same time as you. Names and other identifying information will not be given out to anyone.

Note: If you or someone in your household is at higher health risk, we recommend for your safety that you fellowship virtually until it is safer for you to return to a public group setting.

Are we required to rotate attendance to allow others to attend?

This is a very personal decision and not a church requirement. We look forward to the day when we can all worship together safely and appreciate your caution as we wait for that time.

Will there be transportation offered for Sunday services?

Unfortunately, we will need to suspend our transportation services for the first few Sundays we are back in the building. We will hopefully be able to resume this needed service when we feel that we can do it and keep everyone safe.

What if I have other questions or concerns?

Please contact any member of the Reentry Team.

Sis Sarah
Carter

Sis Paulette Daniels Hill
Deacon Ray Folk
Brother Alonzo Hill

Sister Deborah Joseph
Trustee Ivan Jubilee
Sister Krystal Jubilee
Brother Mike McCoy

Sister Sheila Murray
Deacon Jerome Nuckles
Sister Melody Riddick
Brother Kevin White