

Winnetka Bible Church Begins In-person Services on July 5th!

The WBC Elder team is excited to announce our plans to bring our church body together in a live worship service format, starting July 5th. We are inviting members and friends to join us **either in-person or online** on Sunday mornings, starting **Sunday, July 5th**. Given our commitment to the fellowship of the local church (Acts 2:42) and the public gathering for worship (Hebrews 10:22), we are encouraged to be able to reintroduce an in-person gathering as one of the Sunday worship options. We have been encouraged to see the steady re-opening of local businesses and churches over the past couple weeks. As we join them and enter our own season of regathering, we ask you to help us in welcoming and encouraging one another (John 13:34-35) as we implement the following plan:

Our Regathering Objective

To welcome and encourage each other with grace, joy and the love of Christ as we regather as a church to worship our Risen Lord together

Our Integrated Worship Plan

- **Our Live Sunday Worship Services will begin on July 5th** and will be available both at the church and online.
- **Worship services will begin at 10:30 am** and last approximately one hour. Services will be livestreamed on Sunday, recorded and also made available online later in the week.
- The sanctuary will have a fixed capacity and will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Several other areas will be set up inside the facility in order to provide overflow capacity and other seating options for attendees.
- A special **welcome and instructional video** is being prepared to welcome you back to worshipping in person at WBC. The video will be posted at www.wbc.org no later than July 1st.
- In-person attendees will be asked to follow a few **new guidelines** in order to support both the health and the well-being of the congregation (see next section)

Our In-Person Guidelines

1. **Rule #1: Please don't come to church if you are sick.** We are asking that everyone who feels ill, has a pre-existing health condition or is in an at-risk category to continue to join us by worshipping online and at-home. ***If your health is in question, consider refraining from coming to church.*** [Please see the links at the end of this document for further details.]
2. **Please join us either in person or from home...you choose!** We are making our worship services available so our attendees and their families can participate from church, from home, or from anywhere. We want people to feel welcome to join us in-person, but only when they feel they are ready to do so. We will therefore continue to support

livestreamed and recorded services for the foreseeable future for those who wish to or need to worship remotely.

3. **Families should plan to sit together.** Families will be encouraged to sit together and observe physical distancing guidelines from other families and congregants while at WBC. All rooms (including the sanctuary) will be clearly marked and/or set up for an average physical distancing of approximately 10 feet. If anyone in the family feels sick, please see #1. If you are coming to the service alone, the ushers will assist you in find a seat.
4. **Please visit a health station when you first arrive.** Sanitizing dispensers will be provided at the main entrance and at each of the designated worship locations. People should either wash their hands or visit one of the health stations for sanitizing lotion before entering a worship location. Digital thermometers will also be available upon request, but if you are feeling sick, please remember rule #1 before you decide to come to church.
5. **Children & Youth Ministries will not be available at first.** Neither Children's ministries (nursery, children's worship) nor Youth Ministries will be provided on Sunday morning during the initial re-gathering phase. The gym will be set with tables, which some families may find helpful. We will also provide children's bulletins and coloring sheets for use during the service. The infant nursery will be open for parents with babies. The Youth Ministry will still meet on Sunday evenings. Please call Zane Balmer for details.
6. **Facemasks are highly recommended but not required.** Disposable facemasks will be provided and recommended for use while in the building, especially when entering and exiting. Those with medical conditions or mask-anxiety may opt out but should observe the appropriate physical distance recommendations while in the building.
7. **Please follow the welcome team's instructions when entering and exiting your worship area.** Worshipers may enter the building through any of the church entrances, but once inside they should follow the ushers' instructions regarding which rooms are available.
 - As you greet one another, please respect one another's wishes regarding how you will welcome them. Remember that WBC's recommendation is to maintain appropriate physical distancing.
 - Once the sanctuary reaches its designated capacity (initially 25%), worshipers will be directed to one of the other available rooms. Each room will be equipped with a live video feed of the service with seating in accordance with our physical distancing guidelines (initially 10 feet). At the end of the service, each room will be dismissed by the attending usher in an orderly manner. Once dismissed, please exit the building and visit with people outside.
8. **Let us know if you have any special needs.** Individual seating accommodations will be made for those with special needs. Please contact the church office in advance if you

require special assistance or would like to reserve a space at the back of one of the worship locations.

9. **Bathrooms will be open, but please wash your hands as you normally do.** Attendees will be responsible for self-monitoring the use of the bathrooms to avoid over-crowding. Please keep in mind that there are multiple bathrooms in the facility, and the largest one is in the Family Life Center (down the ramp).
10. **Offerings can be accepted either online or at the end of the service (offering plates will not be passed).** Giving will continue to be supported online, but attendees may bring their offerings to WBC if desired. Each worship area will have a designated location where offerings may be deposited at the end of the service. Offering envelopes and bulletins will be available (self-serve) at the entrance of each worship location.

Thank you so much for your continued support, your prayers and your understanding as we step into yet another season of transition. As we prepare the facility, the welcome teams, and the worship services, we are looking forward to bringing the church together in this new “live” worship format. Whether you plan to join us in person or online, we are praying that our time together will be spiritually uplifting, and that your heart will be filled with joy. We anticipate that you will be encouraged by the Word of God and a fresh movement of the Spirit in your life.

Praise be to the Lord Jesus Christ who is over all, through all and in all – and who loves His bride, the church!

Additional Resources:

CDC COVID-19 Symptom Summary: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?utm_campaign=AC_CRNA

Illinois Department of Public Health: Restore Illinois Plan: <https://dph.illinois.gov/restore>