EBC Update (13 May 2020)

Last night five of the elders and a subset of five deacons met to discuss how to proceed at Emmanuel when we finally get together in-person again. There was some discussion regarding Governor Tate Reeves’s Executive Order No. 1480 (https://mcusercontent.com/08cb3e52aa1308600f84d49ea/files/20c98fc3-fb08-4246-8080-d6fa6113bf10/Executive_Order_1480_Extend_Safer_at_Home.pdf) that indirectly put churches in the category of 10 or less people in an indoor facility until 8 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2020. Based on those guidelines and some statistics of Covid-19 cases in Mississippi (Fig. 1) we decided to tentatively open our doors on Sunday, May 31 with the following guidelines.

![COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Age Group through May 12, 2020*, Mississippi](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html#map)

**Figure 1.** People >60 yrs old have a 14% mortality rate from Covid-19 whereas people <60 years old have a <1 % mortality rate. ([https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html#map](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html#map))

**Tentative Guidelines for EBC’s reopening on May 31, 2020**

- Setup main auditorium so every other row of seating is removed.
- Maintain 6’ spacing between families (minimum of three seats within a row).
- Adult Sunday school will meet in the main auditorium with no other Sunday School classes.
- EDGE will meet using social distancing guidelines
- Childcare/Nursery will not be provided, however, children are welcome to sit with their family.
- Recommended that the most vulnerable groups by age or preexisting condition participate online or watch the streamed service or watch the recorded service. Your decision.
- If the seating capacity is reached in the main auditorium overflow will be in other classrooms with a live-stream while maintaining 6’ distancing.
• Collection plate will be at the back of the Worship Center.
• Greeter will open doors of the church.
• One person will be in charge of coffee.
• Restrooms will be setup to minimize germ spreading (e.g., trash near door).
• Hand sanitizer located in numerous locations throughout church.
• Ask that anyone, regardless of age, that has a fever of any kind to please stay home.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. We are all looking forward to the time we can meet in-person again. We are prayerfully considering how to move forward. In summary, we are tentatively considering opening the doors on Sunday, May 31. Data will be looked at and we will consider any new Executive Orders by Gov. Reeves before completely committing to the May 31 reunion date. We will keep everyone updated.

If you have any comments/questions please let us know and we will take them into consideration (emmanuelmsu@gmail.com).

Rick Maiers
Disseminator of Sometimes Pertinent Information