

OOLTEWAH BAPTIST'S FIRST STEPS TO GATHER ON CAMPUS

ANSWERS TO 4 CRITICAL QUESTIONS

The heartbeat of our church is to see lives changed by Jesus. The first step of our discipleship pathway is to gather for worship. As a church we have two values that guide our gatherings. First, we gather to worship, pray, and celebrate God together. Second, we gather to enjoy one another, a family of many generations. Since the beginning of March, we have gathered online. On May 17th at 10:30 we will gather online and on our campus for worship in the gym.

First and foremost, hear grace from your pastors and staff. If your age or current health puts you at risk and you desire to stay home and worship online, please feel both the freedom and our support in doing this. When you join us on campus, we have made specific arrangements with your health and safety in mind. These arrangements take into account the tornado damage and repair and the COVID-19 phase in recommendations.

What does our first Sunday back on May 17th look like?

Arrival

- Please park in the parking lot behind the gym and children's buildings.
- Please note specific sections for senior adults and handicapped. Guest spaces may be used by anyone during this time.
- Welcome tents and signs will clearly designate entrances.
- Our staff will greet you at the doors and the doors will be opened for you.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed for your use at each entrance and outside each restroom as well.

Seating

- Chairs have been set up in rows 6' apart throughout the gym in groups of 4 and 2.
- Feel free to combine and adjust these only if necessary for your family and only touching the chairs your family will use during the service.
- Please maintain the spaces between rows.
- All chairs have been cleaned and sanitized.

Senior Adults and the Immunocompromised

- The first section of the gym parking lot has been designated for your exclusive use.
- The first set of double doors has been designated for your exclusive use.
- Nearly a quarter of the gym has been reserved for senior adults and the immunocompromised, this seating is optional but available for your use.
- The two restrooms nearest this seating area have been reserved for your use and will be disinfected throughout the morning.

Families

- The set of restrooms closest to the kitchen will be for kids (families) and youth, this restroom has a diaper changing station in it should it be needed.
- The set of restrooms closest to the doors will be for all adults.
- Parents, we encourage you to bring a bag for your kids with things they can use during the service. Ideas: coloring book/crayons, activity book, Bible, books, a snack, quiet toys, find things that are age appropriate for your child that they can do during the service.
- We know that family worship can be a stretch for little ones, so should you need to step out with your child, you may go out to the courtyard to let them stretch their legs or to console a fussy child.

When will Grow Groups resume on campus?

It is wonderful that many of our grow groups have continued to meet weekly through phone calls and online meetings. It is our deepest desire to resume small groups on campus as soon as possible; that said, there are crucial steps that have to be taken in order for us to do that safely and at a time when all groups can resume together. With our buildings needing roof repairs and windows replaced, and for groups to meet at 50% capacity and 6' apart, you can understand why this cannot happen just yet. Please continue finding ways to meet and stay connected until our buildings are restored and the health of our community is on the rise.

What are the damages to campus?

Indicates Updates to 4/23 COVID-19 Document posted on obclife.org, emailed, and mailed on 4/23:

- We are the only Southern Baptist Church in the Hamilton County Baptist Association with tornado damage.
- We have extensive debris in each of our parking lots that is awaiting pick up by Collegedale and Hamilton County Public Works. This is a major limitation in parking and safe mobility. The debris was 90% removed Sunday during the Main Street shut down.
- Our steeple is damaged and awaiting repair crews to remove damaged metal and dry-in. The loose metal presents a liability until it is secured by a professional crew. Every effort is being taken to get this done as quickly as possible. The metal has been partially removed and partially re-secured. This is a temporary solution and a construction company has been secured and is scheduling repairs.
- Our roofs are being replaced by Holder Roofing. They are an amazing company who have already fixed our gym roof and have all the supplies ordered for our main church roofing. With the extent of the disaster in the Chattanooga area, you can imagine the delay in the process between order and delivery. The gym roof has been repaired and (as the only repaired roof thus far) is allowing services in the gym to be possible. The sanctuary roof sustained damage and holes remain tarped.
- We have several trees that are "at risk" for falling due to the root system being pushed during the storm. We have a trained and insured Disaster Relief Team scheduled to remove these for us at which point our guys can schedule a "clean up" day for the church grounds. Safety is our main concern. Disaster relief teams did a great job assisting us with clean up. And several critical steps need to be taken before we schedule a future cleanup day
- **ADDITIONAL REPAIRS NEEDED:** Many windows remain broken; replacements have been ordered. Drop ceilings in areas have been saturated with water, removed, and will be replaced.

Is giving down?

No, quite the opposite. You have been faithful in your giving. This is an incredible reminder that God provides and that we have kingdom work to be done. Thank you, church family, for giving faithfully!

These are unique times and new territory for Ooltewah Baptist Church. We have faced an epidemic and have been thrown an additional curveball by the tornado. As building repairs continue to be scheduled and agreements made with our insurance company and local contractors, please have patience and display grace knowing that your leadership has been working hard to respond appropriately.

Church, we love you. You are ministering to your staff during these days through both your patience and your trust. Thank you for this incredible ministry!