

“Action Plan for Reopening USBC”

June 21, 2020

IT IS OFFICIAL – Montgomery County, Maryland has lifted some restrictions that will allow our church to have an indoor service this Sunday, June 21, 2020.

As **Upper Seneca Baptist Church** plans for our reopening on June 21st, there is some important information that you need to know. To help make this transition possible and efficient, everyone will need to do their part to make this a healthy and productive step to getting back to normal.

Below, is **Phase 1** of the “*Action Plan for Reopening USBC*”. The church is basing this plan on recommendations from the CDC, local government officials, Baptist Convention, and the needs and protection of our church family. Each of us will play a critical part in making this highly anticipated reopening a safe and enjoyable experience.

- **Church’s Responsibility**

- Create a clean, safe environment.
 - Disinfect the facility before, during, and after worship.
 - Provide adequate personal protection supplies (Example: Hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, etc.).
- Setup the facility so that proper “*social distancing*” can be practiced.
- Provide a meaningful and worshipful experience.

- **Attendee’s Responsibility**

- Practice “*social distancing*” as required by government agencies and church expectations.
 - Observe 6 ft. spacing (this would include no hugging nor handshaking).
 - Wear a mask (if required).
 - When using the restroom, only one person at a time will be permitted in the restroom unless you need assistance or with a family member.
- If you are sick, not feeling well, or displaying any signs of COVID-19, please stay home.
- Please be patient and understanding as we work through this together.
- Let your worship time be meaningful and express your gratefulness that we can worship together again.

Phase 1

- **Safety Table & Communication’s Table**

- **Safety Table**
 - Will be setup in the foyer with appropriate signage.
 - This table will contain masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, gloves, etc.
 - Trash bin will be placed near table to dispose of such products.
- **Communication’s Table**
 - Will be setup in the back of the sanctuary with appropriate signage.
 - This table will hold the bulletins and any additional informational material.
 - The offering plates will be placed on this table.

- **Seating Arrangements for Worship**
 - 200 sq. ft. spacing between individuals/family groupings.
 - Chairs will be rearranged to accommodate such requirements.

- **Worship Service Structure**
 - Have attendees observe “*social distancing*”.
 - Attendees will be asked to leave their Connect Card on the Communication’s Table upon leaving.
 - The offering plates will not be passed, but will ask attendees to place their offering in the plate upon leaving.
 - During Phase 1, there will be no greet and meet.
 - Instead of a formal invitation (inviting people to come forward), attendees will be asked to share their decision with the Pastor once the service has concluded.

- **Postponement of Ministries in Phase 1**
 - No Coffee Shop/Refreshments
 - No Sunday School
 - No Children’s Church
 - No Choir
 - No Wednesday Night Activities
 - No activities within the church building except for Sunday Morning Worship unless approved by the Pastor. However, certain ministries will continue throughout the week using electronic communication (Examples: phone, video conferencing, etc.)

In the near future, **USBC** will be moving to **Phase 2**. In **Phase 2**, certain restrictions will be lax based upon the guidance of the CDC and local officials. As we receive more direction from such agencies, **USBC** will revise our procedures to reflect such recommendations.

The purpose of establishing the above “**Action Plan**” is not to hinder your worship, but to protect the safety and health of each person we minister to. Although we will be meeting in our facility, our services will still be broadcast live through Facebook and the services will be recorded and posted on the church’s website to be viewed at a later time.

Please take the time prior to share this “**Phase 1 – Action Plan**” with your family and your children so that everyone will be prepared on this special day.

Thanks for your patience and understanding as we look forward to worshipping together in God’s house.