

The Safety and Security Team and I are pleased to announce we are re-opening Sunday and Wednesday services and activities at Roby Baptist Church beginning June 7, 2020. Our conviction after much prayer came down to one word - CHOICE. After 3 months of altering services to help slow the spread, we believe the time has come for individuals and families to make a personal choice on how, when, and where to worship. We understand there is a plethora of opinions on how this should have been handled since day one and how it should continue to be handled.

No matter your perspective, please understand we are not taking this situation lightly, nor are we ignoring the last several months as though nothing has happened regarding COVID-19. To do so would be irresponsible of us and would not be an act of love toward RBC's members and the community.

From day one our goal has been to make this the safest place possible to come and worship. This will continue to be our goal moving forward. In order to maintain a safe environment, we must understand a few things. First, this virus, like many contagious viruses, is not going away any time soon. Second, it is our personal responsibility to ensure we practice good hygiene regularly by washing our hands, using hand sanitizer, and remaining home if we are not feeling well. Third, it is the church's responsibility to provide the safest place possible to worship. More on sanitation below.

With our responsibility in mind, beginning June 7, we are implementing some changes to our services indefinitely. The purpose behind some of these changes is not only to increase safety, but to help reduce the risk of spreading all types of contagious diseases we battle yearly.

Some of these changes may be difficult at first, but with time we will adjust and establish a new norm. Below is an outline of the changes and provisions we are making to increase safety at RBC.

### **Sunday Morning Worship Service**

Beginning June 7, we will no longer have a "meet and greet" time at Roby Baptist Church. Instead, attendees are encouraged to hang out **AFTER** the service and fellowship with one another within their level of comfort. This allows people who are comfortable fellowshiping an opportunity to do so, but also allows those who are not comfortable fellowshiping at this point a way to avoid feeling "trapped" in awkward "meet and greet" situation.

Also, we will no longer be passing the offering plates because too many hands touch them. Instead, our ushers will be at each exit with the offering plates. Other options for giving will include giving during Sunday School, mailing in your offering, online giving, or dropping your gift off during the week at the church office.

- This may or may not be the best place to address wearing masks but will interject it here. Our position at RBC is simple, if you want to wear a mask please feel the freedom to so. If you do not want to wear a mask, please feel the freedom to not wear a mask.

For those who are not ready to attend worship in the sanctuary, we completely understand, and we want to continue providing services for you. Therefore, the following alternatives will continue or be implemented:

- A. We will be providing a **live audio** feed into the fellowship hall for those who do not want to sit in the sanctuary. The fellowship hall is a great alternative for those who want to spread out and practice social distancing while being a part of the worship service.
- B. We will continue to broadcast live on Facebook. If you decide to stay home and join us online, once again, we completely understand!
- C. We will continue to broadcast live through our short-range FM transmission. If you want to be onsite and listen on your car radio, please feel free to do so.

### **Sunday School**

All Sunday School classes will resume on June 7, 2020.

### **What about Children's Church, Toddlers and Nursery During Worship Service?**

The Safety and Security Team and I discussed this at great length. Our decision is to re-open this ministry on Sunday mornings also. Please note, as parents/guardians, no one is mandating your child be sent to the nursery or Children's Church. If you are more comfortable having them remain with you, please feel the freedom to do so.

Also, due to the large number of children we've had in Children's Church prior to March, grades 4, 5, and 6 will remain upstairs with their parent/guardians. We will continue to provide Children's Activities to help them engage in the service. This will be provided for all ages.

Also, please note, if your child is showing any symptoms of illness (fever, runny nose, cough etc), please be courteous to others and DO NOT bring them to church. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding on this matter.

### **Sunday Evening**

We will continue meeting in the sanctuary on Sunday Evenings. No changes here.

### **Wednesday Evening Activities**

All Wednesday evening activities will resume on June 10, 2020.

### **A Word on Sanitation**

We want to assure you we are taking the necessary precautions to clean the church thoroughly multiple times a week. We are ensuring all rooms, restrooms, kids' toys, tops of pews, hymnals, door handles, etc. are being sanitized after their use on Sundays and Wednesdays.

We also have hand-sanitizer available at each entrance and exit of the church. We encourage everyone to use it.

### **One Final Thought**

I know the last few months have been very challenging for most of us emotionally and spiritually. Some of us have experienced fear, uncertainty, and stress while others have battled frustration, impatience, and irritation over the changes that have been made in the world. Regardless of how we feel or think about COVID-19, our government, or the church's decisions, we can have a firm confidence in the hope of Jesus Christ. For over 2000 years, He has brought peace, comfort, and hope to millions who placed their faith in Him while facing uncertainties. As followers of Jesus, we do not place our faith in world leaders or governments for solutions or cures.

As houses of worship begin to re-open, NOW is the time to unite in prayer and cry out to God for healing.

*"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

- 2Chronicles 7:14

Thank you all once again for your continued faithfulness, support, and prayers. I can't thank God enough for you all!

Pastor Wes