



First Baptist Institutional Church
17101 West Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, Michigan 48235
www.fbicdetroit.org 313-835-5477 fbichurch96@att.net
The Reverend Dr. Robyn Diane Moore, Pastor

June 29, 2021

To My Church family,

It is time. It is time to gather again, but it is not time to go back to normal. It is evident that FBIC did its part by encouraging virtual worship services during the last 12+ months as one way to promote safety, do our part to flatten the curve of COVID-19 and to avoid the public health crisis that could have occurred in the church. It was out of love for your neighbor that you complied with the order, and yet still had the yearning desire to worship God, the Father. We did it; we found ways to worship, study and offer praise electronically. Thank you for doing your part to encourage staying at home, worshiping virtually, attending countless zoom bible studies, fellowships and Hour of Empowerment classes. Classes have grown including Hour of Empowerment and Wednesday classes having regular and consistent guest participants. As a matter of fact, the evening class has 3 faithful non-members who attend weekly classes.

Since the government guidelines have expired and the request to resume in-person worship has been asked multiple times by multiple people, **effective July 4, 2021, FBIC will return to weekly in-person worship and during the summer will take advantage of outdoor services, connecting church and community, as well as distant fellowship in safe and loving ways.** Notice, I opened with it's not time to go back to normal.

I want to frame our return to in-person worship in this way:

God has chosen to love us in Jesus Christ, and in doing so, God inspires us to return God's love and to love one another. Our love for one another means that we are attentive to the well-being of our neighbor. Our love does no wrong—no harm—to our neighbor. God's love inspires us to love God. It's why we worship. That's why we offer ourselves to God – because He first loved us! Understand, the feel, the sound, the shape of worship will look different for some time to come but the spirit of Christ, the sounds of praise will remain the same.

As we return once again to in-person worship, we will continue these practices.

- Access to the building will be available at 8:30 a.m. and only through the Gilchrist entrance.
- Special entrance to the main door (handicap) will be available as needed and upon request
- Hour of Empowerment will remain virtual until Fall, 2021. You may attend Hour of Emp at FBIC.
- Mask wearing, temperature checked, survey completion, and social distance will be enforced throughout July. We will monitor and determine how we will ease back to some norms.
- PPE Clearance Forms are on www.fbicdetroit.org. Print, complete in advance or upon entrance.
- Additional masks and plastic gloves are available on site.
- Escorted seating only, dismissal will be directed by ushers and volunteers.
- Maximum of 75 worshippers allowed in the sanctuary

Please follow these encouraging words from me to you: If you are at high-risk or feel concerned about being exposed to the virus, please continue to worship at home. Your FBIC family understands and respects your decision. If you have additional questions regarding this worship service, please notify the church office and you will be contacted accordingly.

Now, let me take a moment to update you on “the happenings at FBIC”:

I want to introduce in this communication our new staff persons in the church office. Ms. Tawana Langford has joined FBIC as the pastor’s executive assistant and Ms. Kelly Baber as Administrative Assistant/Office Manager. Both women have been a wonderful addition to the office. Please join me as we welcome them in these roles. With this expansion, the official office hours for FBIC are Monday through Thursday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Likewise, it has been just as joyful to work with Theresa Quince over the last two years. Theresa has decided to step down for her roles and responsibilities in the office. We know that she will continue to serve in other FBIC ministries. We thank God for her service and to FBIC.

Dates to Remember...

- 4th Communion Sunday – In Person Sanctuary Service
- 5th Church Office Closed (observance of July 4, reopen 7/6 at 11am)
- 9th Jazz in the Lot
- 10th WOW Ministry
- 11th In-Person Service – Outdoors
- 16th Travel Ministry - Movie Night
- 17th 3rd Quarter Church-Wide Meeting
- 18th In-Person Service – Sanctuary Service and Baby Blessing
- 19th Virtual YOGA Returns
- 20th Pastor’s Discernment Class (returns)
- 21st Forgotten Harvest – First Delivery
- 24th Health Ministry/MOTTEP Virtual Walk Begins
- 25th In-Person Service – Outdoor Service

As you can see, FBIC is always looking to engage you with spiritual discipline and fellowship as your faith grows with Christ. As always, the way to our future together requires all of us---our prayers, our cooperation, and our patience. May our everyday lives continue to tell the story of the glory and goodness of God.

In Christ We Serve,

Pastor Robyn D. Moore