

From the Pastor's Desk

David's love for God's house was well known (**Ps. 27:4, 65:4; 2 Sam. 7**). He rejoiced at every opportunity to go with other worshipers to God's house to praise the Lord. As we prepare to gather again as the people of God, it is fitting that we consider **Psalm 122:1 (ESV)**, where David writes, ***"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'"*** ***"Let us go"*** sounds tame, like an invitation to a tea. ***"We will go"*** is a stronger translation. Whether this was an invitation to someone living far from Jerusalem, or to David living in Jerusalem, the statement expressed determination and dedication. **May that same desire reside in us!**

As NYC begins to relax restrictions on gatherings of faith communities, we want to keep you informed about what it will look like for us to once again gather together to worship. During Phase 2, churches can gather at 25% capacity while adhering to CDC social distancing guidelines. At FBCF, we can accommodate the following numbers: ***Spanish Service (80), English Service (80), Chinese Service (75)***.

We understand that everyone has different comfort levels with meeting again. We encourage each family to do what they feel is best at this time. Do not feel pressured to return. ***Services will still be available online for those who prefer to wait a little longer before returning.***

We encourage those who are in good health and feel comfortable doing so, to join us on **Sunday, July 5**. We encourage those who are high-risk (those over 65 and those of any age with underlying medical conditions), those who are caring for high-risk individuals, and those who have been otherwise medically directed, to not attend during this phase. Additionally, if you or any member of your family has been sick with any of the symptoms the CDC has associated with the coronavirus, we ask that you refrain from attending FBCF gatherings for at least 14 days.

We are planning to gather together for worship on **Sunday, July 5**. Our service schedule will be as follows:

- **Spanish Service (9:00 AM-10:10 AM, 1st floor)**
- **Chinese Service (11:00 AM-12:10 PM, 3rd floor)**
- **English Service (11:00 AM-12:10 PM, 1st floor)**

There will be ***no*** children's classes, adult classes, coffee/tea, or any fellowship gatherings during Phase 2; these will resume at a later date. We will ***not*** have congregational singing initially as it has been shown to cause a greater risk of transmission. Instead, we will just listen as our worship leaders minister to us in song.

Reopening Safety Procedures and Guidelines:

1. Registration:

- If you want to attend a worship service, you **must** register in advance.
- Register for the English or Chinese Service on our website (www.fbcflushing.org) beginning **July 1**.
- The Spanish Service is open to all.
- If you are unable to register online, please call, text, or email Meiling (917-882-3603; meiling@fbcflushing.org).

2. Arrival and Departure:

- The Sanctuary will open 30 minutes prior to your worship service.
- Everyone must enter the building through the main entrance (glass doors in the parking lot).
- The parking lot is available for a limited number of cars.
- Spanish and English Service attenders will exit through the sanctuary doors onto Sanford Avenue.

- Chinese Service attenders will exit through the main doors into the parking lot.

3. Temperature Scans – Upon arriving at FBCF, one of our health care professionals will take your temperature before entering the building. If you have a fever, you will receive literature and medical counsel before being asked to return home.

4. Social Distance – We strongly encourage everyone to minimize close contact and maintain at least six feet of distance while at church. As much as possible, we will attempt to structure the traffic flow and the seating to minimize prolonged, close contact with others. Areas for seating will be clearly marked. We apologize in advance if your favorite seat is unavailable.

5. Face Coverings – As a way to show love and care to all, everyone attending our services will be **required** to wear a face covering while they are at FBCF. We request that you bring your own face covering. The church has a limited supply of disposable masks for those who need one.

6. Hand Sanitizers and Restrooms – Everyone is encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer. The church will have hand sanitizers around the building. Restrooms will be monitored and limited to one person or family at a time.

7. Offerings – Offering plates will not be passed. You can place your offering in the mailbox outside the main door, drop it in the offering plates at the front of the sanctuary, donate online, or continue to mail it in.

8. Lord's Supper – Upon arrival, you will receive a pre-filled juice and wafer set for the Lord's Supper.

We have some wonderful services planned for Sunday, June 28:

Spanish Service (9:00 AM): "The Family of God" Acts 21:1-14 Pastor Adolfo Ocampo
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775/

Chinese Service (11:00 AM): "Are you still maintaining your integrity?" Job 2:1-13 Pastor Shih Wei Chiang
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/

English Service (11:00 AM): "The Dynamics of Faith" Mark 7:24-37 Pastor Aaron Chan
Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/

Please keep in mind that as we move forward in this process, there may be circumstances that call for us to change plans. We will provide updates through letters, email, phone calls and Facebook. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email anyone from the pastoral staff. In the meantime, we encourage you to worship with us through our online services, to connect with one another through our online communities, and to support the ministry at FBCF through your prayers, service and grace-giving.

We long to see you all again, face to face. We love you deeply!

Joyfully yours,
Pastor Gary