



Home of: Tennessee Avenue Childcare Center  
and Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy

104 Cypress Street  
Bristol, Tennessee 37620  
423-989-4325

May 6, 2020

Dear TABC Family,

First and foremost, I would like to say how encouraged I am by the habits that are being formed during this time. My prayer is that we will continue to check on each other through phone calls, letters, cards, online meetings, etc. We do not know how long the social distancing guidelines will be in place, but please keep loving and encouraging one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* I pray that even after COVID 19 is over, that we continue in these habits and do not let them fall to the way side.

As a church, our mission is to share the gospel and make disciples. Matthew 28:19 says, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* As we begin to meet again, things will look a little different; but remember that the value of our church is not based on how many services, activities, or traditions we embrace. The value of the church is based on our ability to reach the community, share the gospel, and disciple those people to be imitators of Christ.

We will begin meeting again on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Due to the guidelines communicated by our federal, state, and local government, things will look a little different. We have outlined the way we will move forward on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

1. We will have two services on Sunday mornings. We will continue streaming the 11:00 a.m. service.
  - a. The 9:00 a.m. service is recommended for individuals who are at high risk for serious illness. The sanctuary will not be unlocked until 8:45 a.m.
  - b. The 11:00 a.m. service is recommended for those not considered at high risk for serious illness. We would prefer to see those with children attend this service. The sanctuary will not be re-opened for this service until 10:45 a.m.
  - c. The staff will be cleaning after each service. We will wipe down door knobs, bathrooms, sanctuary seating, etc. All measures will be taken to make sure everything is sanitized.
  - d. You are more than welcome to wear a mask if you would like.
  - e. Local, state, and federal guidelines ask for us to maintain social distancing. By having two services, this will help us adhere to that guideline.

2. Social distancing will be practiced during the services.
  - a. No hand shaking. No passing the offering plate (there will be offering receptacles available in the vestibule). No congregating after the service in the building. Please leave the sanctuary in a timely manner so we do not put anyone at risk.
  - b. We will have sanitizer at the doors. Sanitizer wipes will be in each row as well.
  - c. You will only be able to enter and exit through the front entrance. All other doors will remain locked.
  - d. If you are not feeling well or have had a fever in the last 24 hours, please stay at home.
3. We will not be resuming Sunday School at this time. We will use the normal Sunday School hour to allow the staff to clean and sanitize.
  - a. We are encouraging all Sunday School groups to schedule a time through the week to meet. Groups need to consist of around 10 people to make sure we follow guidelines.
  - b. Sunday School groups can meet at the church but MUST call the office to schedule their meeting time and what room they are using. This will help us stay in compliance.
4. We will not be resuming our nursery or children's ministry at this time.
  - a. Tiffany will provide activity bags for the children attending the service. We are encouraging all families to attend the 11 a.m. service.
  - b. Nursery for ages 4 and under will tentatively open on June 14<sup>th</sup> as long as the guidelines do not change.
5. We will not be resuming our Sunday evening services at this time. Use this time to spend with your family or meet with your Sunday School groups.
6. Wednesday evening services will still be streamed through Facebook, Boxcast, tabaptist.org, and YouTube.
7. Youth Group will not resume meeting on Wednesday evenings at this time.

Each item above is based upon local, state, and federal guidelines. These are guidelines, not mandates. Adjustments will be made as needed to this current policy.

While these changes are hard and they are not ideal, we must make these changes to protect one another. We are so thankful that we can at least begin meeting again on our campus. Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church is still standing on the Word of God and moving forward during this unprecedented time.

Love in Christ,



Bro. Andy Sweeney  
Senior Adult / Youth Pastor