Third Baptist Returns to Public Worship

Third Baptist Church returns to public worship Sunday, May 24.

Here’s what you need to know:

Upon arrival:
From church parking lot on Washington Avenue side, please enter building through ramp door (left, closest to parking lot) or entrance on Washington Avenue (right across from Strauss Park).

2. You will be welcomed at each entrance doors by Ken Blanton, Jerry Campbell and Gwendolyn Grimstead (Washington Avenue entrance) or Sally Stevenson, Monica McDaniel and Clara Jackson by ramp door entrance.

3. Please bring protective mask. If you forget mask, all is well, one will be provided as you enter. To prevent touching of touch bars, entrance doors will remain open. As you enter building—hand sanitizers are available—please use upon entrance.
4. Drew Phillips, Maria Stinnett and Leslie Davis will greet you upon entrance to balcony and ground floor of Sanctuary. The worship service is scheduled for 11am—please remember Sunday school will return May 31. Here’s our Sanctuary set up:

The signs on rows designate no seating available. Please sit in rows which are open—maximum of 4 persons per row (excluding families if number exceeds 4)—6 feet apart.

The balcony is open.

Please sit in open rows (maximum of 3 per row)—6 feet apart.

Please wear masks for entirety of worship.

Upon departure, several exit doors will be open. And departing our building exit doors are propped open to prevent touching of hand knobs, push bars, etc.
Now...
Let's remember who we are and where we’re from.

The oldest image of the Apostle Paul is found in a small cave, on the slope of Nightingale Mountain, just outside of Ephesus (located on the western shore of modern day Turkey).

The Apostle Paul, on his third missionary journey, remained in Ephesus preaching and teaching for 2 years. Paul was the straw that stirred the drink—taken into an amphitheater by an infuriated mob—conversions had cut into silversmiths pocketbooks. Paul mentions cryptically, I fought with the beasts at Ephesus (1 Corinthians 15:32).

Friends, confronting and dealing with adversity is infused into our historical DNA as followers of Jesus. And Third will continue to respond to Covid-19 with wisdom, common sense and service to one another.

You will discover further guidelines in this issue of Third Base. Please do not scan. Read and Review. We are responsible for one another—we are in this together.

Imagine:
Witnessing our church family, on ground floor and in the balcony. All wearing masks, as an act of love, not wanting to cause harm to another. All taking precautions through social distancing and washing hands.

As we begin worship—Third's family will look around our magnificent Sanctuary—and notice true magnificence is found in relationships formed by love—through a common bond in Christ Jesus.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
- Ephesians 3:20-21

Blessings all,
Tommy
Wednesday Night Dinner and Discipleship
Returns Wednesday, May 27
Dinner Served at 5:00 PM by Arris Harris

Discipleship led by Pastor at 6:00 PM.

Lessons from Thessalonians
How Firm A Foundation

As we gather Wednesday night, here’s our set up (left).

Please wash hands upon entering building/wear mask.

A maximum of 4 per table.

Once food or any item leaves kitchen, it is not returned.
All food is served on disposable paper products.

After an 11 week break on Wednesday nights—I am looking forward to connecting again!

Tommy

June Birthdays
1 Virginia Kincannon
3 Susan Seewoster
6 Mireille Bradford
8 Christopher Lee
9 Addison Hulett
12 Linda Freiburghaus
16 Howard Roos
19 Drew Phillips
21 Betty James
24 Lydia Thiems
25 Fran Blake
27 Monica Odell
28 Pat Stevens
29 Deanna Davis
Guidelines for Preschool, Children’s and Youth Departments

As we prepare to resume ministries on May 24, the following guidelines have been put in place for the Preschool, Children’s and Youth departments.

Maria Stinnett & Drew Phillips

Preschool Guidelines
- Volunteers and preschoolers wash hands upon arrival.
- Only volunteers, parents and preschoolers are allowed in preschool spaces.
- All tables and chairs cleaned before and after use.
- All cloth toys removed from preschool space.
- No snacks during Sunday school or extended session.
- Toys cleaned after use.

Children’s Guidelines
- Tables and chairs wiped down before and after use.
- Tables and chairs spread apart for safe social distancing.
- Markers wiped down and cleaned before and after use.
- Papers placed on chairs.
- Bean bags, tent like structures and cardboard boxes are put away.
- Cushioned cloth furniture is removed.
- No snacks.
- All areas cleaned before and after use.
- Children will sit with their parents during worship. There will not be a children’s table.

Youth Guidelines
- Couches are removed.
- Chairs cleaned before and after use.
- Doorknobs wiped down before and after use.
- Vacuumed before and after use.
- Ping pong table and paddles are removed.
- No printed materials for lessons.
From Third Families,

I will be honest, the newness of Zoom and the wonder that, most of the time, I can make it work have worn off for me.

I would much rather be face to face, in the same room with our youth and children.

But week after week now, they have been showing up to see one another and check in, celebrate highs, bemoan lows, and pray the Lord’s Prayer together.

Time with them is a gift I cherish and as we are navigating and adjusting our many summer plans (please keep checking email and Facebook) trust that we will continue to meet and play and pray. Our children have been meeting on Sunday afternoons on Zoom and been talking about Jesus’s appearances after the resurrection.

I want to share Alex and Avery Brooks’ interpretations of Jesus on the Road to Emmaus. (A photo of their artwork is on the next page.) I am so grateful for the way our young members help us see the Living Word in the written word and in our world.

On Wednesdays the youth have been looking at the lives of 14 leaders from history and lessons they can teach us (our guide has been the book by David Gushee and Colin Holtz, Moral Leadership for a Divided Age: Fourteen People Who Dared to Change our World.)

While many of these leaders are familiar we have seen through the few we have studied that discerning vocation and calling were lifelong formations. Without exception adversity and unexpected challenges shaped these leaders and their abilities to lean into their faith, think critically, and see a greater good: the reasons we remember and look to them now.

Studying this week after week only increases the prayers I pray for our six seniors graduating high school:

Isaiah Collins, Andre’ Jackson, Gabi Moore, Lydia Thiems, Matthew Watson, and Carson Wright. We will be celebrating them publicly, Lord willing, May 31.

I trust you join me in your pride and prayers.
An Interpretation of the Road to Emmaus by Alex Brooks and Avery Brooks
In the city for good!
620 North Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103
Church Office: 314.533.7340
third-baptist.org

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