

New Covenant family,

For over a year we've missed seeing you, hugging you, and sharing in the joy of fellowshiping with our church family. So many of you have been expressing the same sentiment, asking "When are we coming back to in-person service?" So we thought it important to give you an update.

As of now, we don't have a specific date in mind, but we are developing plans for what we're calling a phased return. The goal of phasing in is first to ensure that our return can be sustained, and secondly, that we provide ministry with both our in-person and online congregation in mind. So the first step in that process will be to move from our current pre-recorded production format to broadcasting live from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. This first phase will include our Worship Department, Media Team, and a small support staff to help manage our online presence. Once we're confident that we can expand further, we'll safely introduce bringing in our congregation by using temperature checks, mask requirements, and distance seating.

We cannot fully express how much we appreciate your patience and continued support as we've navigated ministry apart from one another over the past year. Now we ask for your prayers and assistance as we seek to re-engage in congregational worship. So as we do our part in strategizing best practices, we ask that you do your part in making safe, wise, and educated choices for your health. In addition to encouraging practices such as wearing masks and maintaining social distancing in public spaces, we also want to help you find reliable information concerning the current COVID-19 vaccines.

Our family has had both doses of the vaccine. Like you, we had many questions, and we found that gaining information from trusted sources was important to our family's decision. If you still have questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines, we've provided links to videos and print material that we believe will be of great value to you. In addition to reviewing these resources, we ask that you take a moment to complete the short survey we designed to help us as we prepare to reengage worship in the sanctuary. Our goal is not to tell you what you should do. Our goal is simply to bring you the tools to help you make an informed decision. So go to <https://newcov.org> and click on the **PREPARING TO RETURN TO CHURCH** page. There you can view the videos, read the print resources, and take the survey.

Please know that we miss you, we love you, and until we can see you in person, we pray that you will remain safe, make wise choices, and pray for us as we work toward returning to worshipping with you.

LINKS:

Conversations with America: Unpacking the Covid-19 Vaccine

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Bishop T.D. Jakes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEXB0lyxqqq>

COVID-19 Vaccine and the Black Community

A Tyler Perry Special

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M56q6TIJ890&t=262s>

Toolkit for Faith Communities
COVID-19 Vaccine Education Initiative

<https://faithcommunityvaccinetoolkit.org/black-faith-community>