



**Brookwood**  
BAPTIST CHURCH



## **FROM THE OUTDOORS TO THE FRONT DOOR:**

### **TAKING OUR STEPS TOWARD NEW GATHERINGS AND WORSHIP... THE BROOKWOOD FAMILY**

THE ADVISORY TEAM PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT  
TO OUR BROOKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

IT HAS RECEIVED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM  
THE DEACONS  
THE CHURCH COORDINATING COUNCIL  
AND THE MINISTERS

OUR HOPE, PRAYERS, AND GOALS  
ARE THAT IT WILL SERVE AS A GUIDE  
AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE TEMPORARY,  
THOUGH YET TO BE RESOLVED,  
PANDEMIC OF COVID-19

WE ASK THAT YOU JOIN WITH US  
IN THE BIBLICAL COVENANT

AND THAT WE WALK TOGETHER WITH A PLAN THAT IS  
**REASONABLE, GRADUAL, AND FLEXIBLE**, PREPARED TO  
ADJUST, AS NECESSARY.





# FROM THE OUTDOORS TO THE FRONT DOOR:

## TAKING OUR STEPS TOWARD NEW GATHERINGS AND WORSHIP... THE BROOKWOOD FAMILY

### HOW WE BEGIN:

#### A COVENANT

Some of us will want to walk at different paces from the outdoor to the front door, and some of us won't be walking for a good while. But as a Family, we covenant to love each other and bless our various paths. And as a Tribe, we covenant to respect and practice what we know can help protect our beloved of Brookwood.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24, *23 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive.*

*24 No one should seek their own good, but the **good** of others.*

Ephesians 4:1-2 *...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

*2 Be completely **humble** and **gentle**; be **patient**, bearing with one another in **love**.*

Proverbs 16:32, *Better a **patient** person than a warrior, one with **self-control** than one who takes a city.*

1 Corinthians 13:4, *Love is **patient**, love is **kind**.*

Romans 12:12, *Be **joyful in hope**, **patient in affliction**, **faithful in prayer**.*

*Now is the time to be **extravagant with love**,*

*joy,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
self-control,  
humility,  
prayer,  
and hope.*



**Brookwood**  
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# WHAT WE KNOW

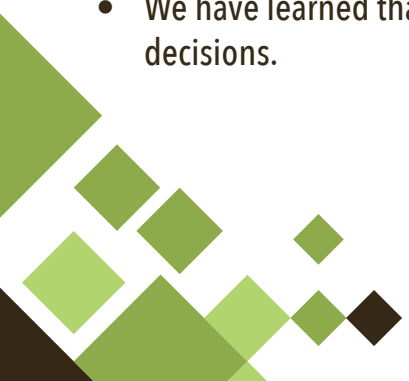
## AND SOME THINGS WE WISH WE DID NOT HAVE TO KNOW

- We want a plan that is *reasonable, gradual, and flexible*. We want to follow the best public health guidelines, take incremental steps, and be prepared to adjust, as necessary. To use a cherished image, we are back at the 10, and we are going for first downs, not Hail Marys.
- Currently, Covid-19 cases are increasing in Jefferson County. Therefore, the virus still presents a significant threat to our Brookwood Family.
- We must be responsible to our community by how we handle any of our gatherings. If an outbreak were to be traced to Brookwood, it would be both tragic and damaging to our witness.
- The primary concern of many physicians, state health officials, ministers, and church laity is safety protocols and seeing to it that church participants will respect them.
- The longer people are together in the same place, the more likely it is that the virus will be transmitted.
- At present, gathering outside is significantly safer than gathering in a church building.
- The US CDC and White House recommend that states exhibit declining incidence of new COVID-19 infections for at least 14 days before initiating or furthering efforts to relax social distancing measures.
- At present, we are far from achieving 14 days of decline in a row.
- We have drawn upon the best information available to us through our own medical experts, Greg Davis, M.D., and Jim Isobe, M.D., local public health data, articles, webinars, and conversations with other congregations.
- We have learned that the more local the information, conversations, and data, the more helpful for our decisions.

*"WE WILL BE DATA DRIVEN, NOT DATE DRIVEN"*



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# THE OUTDOORS

## OUR STEP ONE:

- We must be patient and remember that this season is not forever. It is temporary, and we will Step through it together and with Our God:  
*"...For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."  
2 Corinthians 6:16*
- We have already implemented a STEP ONE plan by providing outdoor gatherings at BBC with student ministries. For the time being, we will continue to organize and host these events

## OUR STEP TWO:

- Our recent Advisory Team meetings have led us to STEP TWO. This step involves planning small group fellowships for those who wish to participate. Our Executive Pastor will be connecting with various church members to discern where and when they can meet and who can serve as hosts.
- Small group sign-ups will be patterned after our Thanksgatherings.
- Small groups can meet outside at various homes and other venues, and meeting outside at the church will be an option. Groups no larger than 15 may meet indoors. Groups meeting indoors are required to wear masks and practice social distance.
- Small group leaders must coordinate with Mary Jane in advance to ensure that appropriate capacity with social distancing is available.
- Small group leaders must take attendance at every meeting, keep the records and send copies to the church office.



- These gatherings can serve as informal fellowships or fellowships with brief devotionals, creative activities, intergenerational ventures, or other ideas from the groups.
- Families (yes, kids too!) should bring their own comfortable chairs and sit together.
- When meeting outside at the church, selected restrooms will be available. The rooms will be sanitized prior to the gathering, but the small groups will be intentionally helpful in keeping the rooms clean and sanitized.
- Social distancing should be practiced.
- At present, being outside is safer than being in the church building. That being so, the best and safest practice is wear a mask. Therefore, our medical advisors strongly encourage that persons wear masks outside. Parents are responsible to determine whether they and their kids will wear masks outside.
- "Jesus said, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' In this context, to love your neighbor means to wear a face mask. To love your neighbor means to stay 6 feet away from each other. To love your neighbor means to do what public health officials ask us to do - not for ourselves alone, but for everybody, for the common good."  
*Bishop Michael B. Curry*
- Likewise, when you or anyone in your family is feeling sick, you love your neighbor by staying at home.
- We will continue to offer the Zoom Sunday School format during this time of transition. This allows for everyone to remain involved and also has an added benefit for class members whether in or out of town.

## OUR STEP THREE:

- Plans are underway to hold outdoor worship gatherings including at the Hudgens' farm.
- We will not move to these larger gatherings until the local health data indicates that incidence are decreasing and safer.
- Families should bring their own comfortable chairs and sit together.



- Social distancing should be practiced.
- Consistent with the requirements of the department of health, and we will to require masks to be worn at these gatherings. Please bring your own.
- At present, much as we would like to sing, groups should not sing for a while. When we sing we spread droplets and aerosols that linger in the air for a long time, thus potentially exposing lots of people to the virus. The following is one of the resources warning against the dangers of group singing;  
<https://www.drheathernelson.com/singingandcovid19>


**AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN COVID-19 HAS DECLINED ENOUGH  
THAT WE CAN MOVE FROM:**

**THE OUTDOORS  
TO  
THE FRONT DOOR  
(THAT LEADS TO THE SANCTUARY!)**

**OUR STEP FOUR:**

- While we pray towards this time, we need specifically to lift prayers that the local health data exhibits declining incidence of new COVID-19 infections, ideally for at least 14 days before initiating or furthering efforts to relax social distancing measures.
- We continue to receive positive feedback regarding our online Sunday worship service and a desire to continue in that manner for the time being. Therefore, until we reach STEP FOUR, we will maintain our current on-line worship service.



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- Once we return to the sanctuary, we will transition to a live stream sharing of the service through our Brookwood website.

## SOME FINAL WORDS

- We must show our love for the most vulnerable as we STEP through this temporary journey together.
- It is human nature to want to take control of this rather than waiting on the Lord's timing.
- *The church longs to reconvene as a single body when we can have more confidence that our members can come together with less risk of causing harm to each other, even unintentionally. Greg Davis, M.D.*
- *This is a good time to be followers. Jim Isobe, M.D.*

### AND OUR COVENANT

*Now is the time to be extravagant with*

*love,  
joy,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
self-control,  
humility,  
prayer,  
and hope.*