



633 Lower Huntington Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46819  
Phone 260-747-5400 | Fax: 260-747-5430  
[www.waynedalebaptistchurch.org](http://www.waynedalebaptistchurch.org)

Dear members and friends,

As you are probably aware, Governor Holcomb released his “Back on Track” plan for the state of Indiana last Friday. A part of that plan is for houses of worship to begin returning to normal, in-person worship. This is a huge milestone and the cause for much celebration! The last time we met corporately at Waynedale Baptist Church was Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Life since then has been, well, interesting. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered most every part of American life.

I am writing today to communicate the plan for moving forward responsibly as a church. We are in a time when ideas and opinions are polarized. I can assure you that the strategy for moving forward has been a matter of much prayer and consideration. We will move forward quicker than some and slower than others. Our return to a more normal format will be incremental and is subject to change if needed. My primary concerns are the health of the congregation and our witness for Christ to the watching world. We all want to go back to “normal”, but let’s be smart about how it’s done.

Variables that have been considered in implementing this strategy include: the current health of the congregation; the vulnerability of our congregation based on age and other risk factors; the current state of infections in our county; the real-time spiritual needs of our congregation; our ability to provide meaningful spiritual engagement through other means, digital and otherwise. I am keenly concerned about your spiritual health, but your physical health is also of tremendous importance. With that in mind, here is how we will proceed:

- A. We will resume in-person worship services on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 8 AM, 10:30 AM, and 6:30 PM. Additionally, the WBC youth will resume their regular 5 PM meeting on Sunday evenings. For the time being our mid-week service will be **online only**, no in-person mid-week service until health risks are mitigated
  - B. Livestream and dial-in service will continue to be offered for all services.
  - C. Because of the arrangement of our Sunday School classroom spaces, we will not have any Sunday School until further notice. Regular Sunday School will reconvene as soon as possible.
  - D. We have rescheduled Vacation Bible School for the week of July 27-30, depending on social distancing restrictions.
  - E. Walk, Talk, and Coffee will not meet until the health risk to seniors is managed better.
  - F. Small groups that meet off-campus that can practice social distancing may resume immediately.
  - G. During corporate worship services our nursery will be available for use but will not be staffed.
  - H. Our van ministry will not run until social distancing guidelines are loosened.
  - I. The following precautions will be taken to promote health as we move forward:
    - ✓ Seating will be marked to insure social distancing of 6’ or more. Household units may sit together.
    - ✓ Children will remain with the adults during worship services until social distancing guidelines are relaxed.
    - ✓ Hand sanitizer will be dispensed at entryways.
    - ✓ The restrooms, common areas, and sanctuary will be sanitized after each service.
    - ✓ Tithes and offerings will be given via collection boxes at dismissal.
    - ✓ Masks are voluntary and a limited number will be provided by WBC.
- You may consider attending our 8 AM service to make room for others in the more popular 10:30 service.
  - The Governor asks those who are most vulnerable (65 years and older, existing risk factors) to avoid gatherings.

God has used this strange time to work in many amazing ways! I look forward to worshipping with you as soon as possible. As we come together in greater unity than ever before, let’s all agree to walk by faith and not by sight.

Peace and love,

*Pastor Steve*