

FROM THE DESK OF ELDER BENJAMIN ADAMS, JR.,  
PASTOR AND TEACHER, ST. JOHN PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Greetings St. John Congregation:

As you are aware, during March 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic required churches, businesses, and schools to close their doors to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. St. John was no exception to these necessary closures. After more than a year of our being apart, it brings me great joy to inform you that St. John is in the reopening phase!

St. John's Reopening Team has planned a safe and effective reopening process that will take place over several months. I ask for your patience throughout this time. Be assured that the Reopening Team developed a plan with your safety in mind and to reduce the threat of reclosure. Also, because we are still in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic (including COVID-19 variants) the Reopening Team will continue to follow the science and CDC guidelines to mitigate a COVID-19 spread within our congregation. I will keep you abreast of any adjustments or changes that might need to be made throughout the reopening phase.

One of the ways we can work together to mitigate a COVID-19 outbreak within our congregation is to allow only persons who are fully-vaccinated for in-person worship. I respect your right to decide if a COVID-19 vaccination is right for you, therefore, St. John will continue providing online worship services for persons who are medically vulnerable, concerned about returning to in-person worship service, and persons who have not been fully vaccinated. Remember, staying safe is the goal.

I am absolutely excited to see you in the pews, soon. However, there is a process to our reopening the church and for maintaining your safety. To learn more about our reopening process and to answer any questions you might have, I'm asking you to please attend the virtual "What to Expect" zoom meeting, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at Noon (Meeting ID# 811 4353 7177 Passcode-power). In the meantime, here is a brief preview of what you can expect:

1. **We'll reopen by age groups.** Please monitor the reopening calendar on the St. John website (sjpbc.com) or social media pages for updates on when your age group is being allowed to return to in-person worship services.
2. Beginning May 2, 2021, **members, age 65+ who are full vaccinated** will be allowed for in-person worship. The doors of St. John will open at 9am to allow time for your temperature and vaccination card to be checked and for an usher to seat you. **(Please bring proof of vaccination with you.)** No one under the age of 65+ will be allowed to enter the sanctuary. If you are under age 65 and provide transportation for a senior, make sure to coordinate your return pick-up time.
3. Only fully vaccinated (proof of vaccination required) persons will be allowed to attend in-person worship services. We'll expect this to change when the science dictates.
4. Ushers and trustees will be available to help you navigate the entering, exiting, and seating process. **Please follow their directions.**
5. Please follow the Order of Worship as directed from the pulpit.
6. Sanitation stations will be located at the entrance and exit points.
7. While restrooms will be open, only one person at a time will be allowed in the restroom.
8. To mitigate the spread of germs, water fountains will remain closed until the pandemic ends.
9. Only fully-vaccinated persons are allowed to attend in-person worship, masks are required, gloves are optional.
10. To allow for at least 3ft of social-distancing, only a limited number of persons will be allowed to attend in-person worship (please continue to monitor St. John's website and social media pages for this number).
11. To avoid unnecessary contact with currency, when possible, please continue to give your offerings and tithes online.
12. During the reopening phase, St. John will open only for Sunday morning worship service. Please continue to attend Word Chaser's Bible Study and Church School online. Please note, at this time, St. John is not open for funerals or weddings.
13. To ensure the reopening phase is successful, we must work together. Please do not come to the church for worship unless your age group has been called back to in-person worship.
14. The Reopening Team anticipates the reopening process to take up to eight months or longer.
15. The church will be disinfected after each worship service.
16. Please attend the "What to Expect" zoom meeting, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @Noon.

His and yours,  
*Pastor Adams*

