



Dear Central Family,

We have returned to in-person worship services. Being mindful of the size of our Sunday School classrooms and in an effort to limit close interpersonal contact, we are not yet resuming other in-person activities.

To maintain appropriate social distance as we worship, we are offering worship services each Sunday at 8:45 am and 10:55 am. We welcome children of all ages to worship and offer nursery care for children 18 months and younger.

As you return to in-person worship, we ask that you and your family be sensitive to the needs of all of our members by:

1. staying home if you have a cough, have a fever, or feel unwell.
2. maintaining appropriate social distance while at Central and by being mindful of the instructions of our ushers and of the signs you will find posted around the building.
3. wearing a mask to worship, please. Mask wearing is effective in limiting person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 and also demonstrates Christian hospitality by allowing many of your fellow members to feel more comfortable about returning to worship.

Our worship in each of our services will be a bit shorter than normal to provide ample time between services to clean high-touch surfaces in the sanctuary. And, as we begin to worship together again, higher risk activities like congregational singing, the passing of the offering plate, and the sharing of communion will be altered or omitted out of an abundance of caution.

We know that some of our members will make the decision not to attend in-person worship right away. We honor and respect everyone as we move toward a new normal, encouraging caution and wisdom in our congregational and personal decision-making. Our worship services and our Wednesday devotionals will continue to be available online.

To help us as we plan for worship over the next several weeks, we hope you'll use our online reservation page to let us know which service you'll be attending each week. By signing up ahead of time, you'll help us make sure we're well prepared for everyone at each service.

You'll also find a few questions and answers about returning to in-person worship below. We look forward to seeing you in person again soon.

# Questions and Answers About In-Person Worship

## **Does it matter which worship service I attend?**

No, but you can help us by letting us know ahead of time which service you'll be attending each week by using our online reservation tool.

## **How will the offering take place in this new format?**

In an effort to reduce exposure, offering plates will not be passed in the sanctuary. Instead, they will be placed on pedestals at the entrance/exits of the sanctuary where people can place their tithes and offerings as they enter or leave the worship service. Of course, people will continue to have the option to give online at [www.centralbaptistnewnan.org/give](http://www.centralbaptistnewnan.org/give).

## **Will we be required to wear masks in worship?**

Based on the advice of public health officials, we are strongly encouraging those in worship to wear masks to help protect others. Our ministers will be wearing masks when they are not speaking or singing to lead in worship.

## **I attend Sunday school online. Will I still be able to attend both Sunday school and worship?**

Yes. Sunday School classes will be asked to shift meeting times to accommodate the new worship schedule.

## **Why can't we meet at the church for Sunday school?**

We are all eager to be back together with our SS classes. However, we do not have enough large spaces to accommodate our adult SS classes and to provide for sufficient social distancing. We are also unable to accommodate social distance for our children and preschoolers. We will continue to monitor the situation and look forward to hosting SS classes again in the coming months.

## **Will we have worship streamed on Sunday?**

We will be making our weekly service available online by each Sunday evening and will email a link to the congregation as soon as it is available.

## **Why can't we engage in congregational singing?**

Congregational singing is a significant part of the worship experience for many of us. Unfortunately, public health experts warn that singing has the greatest potential to most widely spread respiratory droplets which may harbor the coronavirus. While breathing or speaking may spread these droplets 3-6 feet, singing, which requires more force, may propel the droplets 12-16 feet.