



True Light M.B. Church Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Update as of May 28, 2020

COVID-19 has altered our work, family, and church – but the fight continues! It has changed how we engage and interact with one another. In recent weeks, the virus has begun to challenge our system of values. Regardless of its impact, it cannot touch our resolve to stay on the Lord's side. You have proven your support and willingness to not lose sight of God, even when our daily lives are blanketed with clouds of uncertainty. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

The coronavirus continues to negatively impact our community. The number of new COVID-19 cases are at best, fluctuating daily. As of May 28, there were 328 new positive test results reported to the Mississippi Department of Health (*Mississippi COVID-19 Update for May 28, 2020*). On March 28, and April 28, 84 and 257 new cases were respectively reported. This cursory review indicates the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases **continues to increase**. For this reason, we must proceed with great caution and clarity.

For the past three weeks, we have been collectively praying for divine direction concerning our next steps in dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 on the True Light Missionary Baptist Church family. With prayer, review of the State of Mississippi's Safe Worship Guidelines, and the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommendations, I and the administrative leadership team are updating a series of protocols and safeguards for returning to in-person worship service.

Protocols for returning to in-person worship services:

1. Continue with suspended in-person worship celebrations, rehearsals, Sunday School/Small groups, bible study, and programs **until June 21 (3rd Sunday in June)**.
2. High-risk members return for in-person services on **July 5 (1st Sunday in July)**.
3. Services will be *limited to 60 to 75 minutes*. (in length)
4. Temperature check conducted prior to all persons entering the church sanctuary.
5. Continue virtual worship services for all Sunday School, small group classes, and bible studies.
6. Remain prepared for future outbreaks by continuing live broadcast of services.

Safeguards for protection against COVID-19 –

1. All members are to practice social distancing and wear a mask
2. No funerals, weddings, programs, special gathers outside of worship **until further notice**.
3. Virtual Communion will remain an option.
4. No walking for worship in giving. Continue to worship in giving as previously noted.

5. Singing limited to solo(s) or praise team

These actions do not compromise our faith but show that as His children, we seek to obey Him in every area of life, privately and publicly. We will continue to assess the situation and communicate with you any new developments through our church leaders.

Prayer and preaching remain the priority (*Luke 18:1; Romans 10:14-15*). We will continue broadcasting worship service and bible study via YouTube and Facebook Live. I invite all members and friends to subscribe to the church YouTube channel – True Light Baptist Church and our FaceBook page – True Light Missionary Baptist Church for our services. Service times remain the same.

Worship in Giving is vital to the work of the ministry. God has blessed this ministry through each of you. Keep up the good work and don't forget the ministry still has obligations. Be encouraged to continue your cheerful giving through both tithes and offerings. **You may give in several ways: (1) Givelify – True Light Missionary Baptist Church (2) Mail – P.O. Box 911, Jackson, MS 39205 (3) Drop off during regular bible study and worship service hours (4) Contact a Deacon Leader to pick up.**

As previously said, “stay with the Lord! He has not left us, nor has he forsaken us.” Let us continue to set that best example possible for our family and community by following the directions of our local, state, and national leaders. The team and I are here for you. Please remain prayerful for days to come as we trust God to bring us through. He God remains in charge!

One in Jesus,

Pastor Cheeks