



Preparatory Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1 *“Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment of his opinions.”*

Philippians 2:3-5 *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...”*

Ephesians 4:29 *“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”*

Updated WBC Operational Plan through May 25th

Amid the constantly changing circumstances, our primary call as God’s church does not change. We pursue faithfulness to our Lord, true worship, love for one another, and making disciples of Christ within our own family and around the world. In every situation, we as elders seek to build up the body of Christ and to shepherd the flock of God that is under our care (1 Peter 5:2).

Historically, as conditions and needs have changed, we have put in place measures we considered necessary to protect our congregation, such as security protocols and policies about volunteer background checks and bringing sick children to Nursery. We have also modified what we do in order to comply with applicable laws, where it was possible to do so without compromising faithfulness to God’s call. Above all, we exhort each other to act out of love and wisdom, serving one another, even when we have the liberty to do otherwise (Galatians 5:13).

On Saturday May 16th, in response to a lawsuit filed against the state of North Carolina, a federal judge issued a temporary order allowing churches to meet indoors until a May 29th hearing on North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper’s limitations, specifically regarding churches. In addition, the Governor’s 3-phased approach proceeds to phase 2 as of Friday May 22. These events make clear that WBC (and all NC churches) are not restricted by the government from gathering indoors while still following recommended distancing and safety protocols. With that said, **we intend on meeting indoors this coming Sunday, May 24th for those who feel comfortable joining us. We will continue our livestream for those who wish to stay home.** With that, we wanted to share some thoughts, considerations, and encouragement with you all.

- As is always the case, church attendance is a voluntary act of each individual. If, for whatever reason, you do not feel comfortable joining us in person, we invite you to join us on our livestream. At the same time, we are taking precautions (see below) to safeguard and enable more of the congregation to meet and worship together in person.
- If you or any member of your household currently has symptoms or has shown symptoms (cough, fever, fatigue, etc.) in the past 14 days, we ask that you join us via our livestream.
- We would recommend that those at risk (60 years old and above and immunocompromised) continue to join us via our livestream.
- There will be NO Nursery or *Java Jacks* this Sunday, May 24th.

Strategic Safety Precautions

As we have historically taken various measures as needed to protect our members from sickness and danger, here are the measures we are taking to reduce the risk of coronavirus spread at the current time.

- Greeters (with masks) will open and close exterior doors as people enter and exit.
- Follow hygiene guidance as best as possible (frequently wash/sanitize hands & practice appropriate physical distancing).
- Acknowledging the recommendations from the Federal and State government, based on the activities we participate in on Sunday mornings (particularly, singing and fellowshiping), we encourage people in attendance to wear masks. (Additional masks will be available for anyone who needs them.)
- Hand Sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- Chairs will be set up allowing for more distance between family groups and will be disconnected, in case you would like to move them yourself.
- If you are one to enjoy a cup of coffee before or during church, please bring your own.
- Offering will be received in buckets at the doors while we dismiss from the gathering. Online giving is still available.

Regarding our Posture and Behavior

Regarding our posture toward one another as we continue to work together and move forward in these unprecedented times, we would also like to offer a few thoughts for your consideration. We must grant each other the benefit and grace of individual convictions, as the Apostle Paul stressed in Romans 14. If it may cause you to unjustly judge or think poorly of your brother or sister in Christ who doesn't behave exactly the same as you do (e.g. if you believe everyone should or shouldn't wear a mask, and feel that you may be uncomfortable being around those who choose to or not to), we would encourage you to examine your hearts before the Lord, and if necessary, to consider staying at home. Similarly, if you recognize that you may be prone to poke fun or mock those who behave differently than you (e.g. they wear a mask or won't shake your hand or hug you), we would ask that you consider staying home. Finally, we all should seek the Lord and search our hearts, carefully weighing what drives our words and actions. If our own personal convictions and ideas are more important and more valuable to us than another person, or their ideas, we should bring those before the Lord and prayerfully ask him to help us have the attitude that was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5ff).

Please know that your church family stands at the ready. If you or your family have a need (financial, physical, etc.) please let us know. We love you all. We pray for you daily. Please understand that these decisions are made after much prayer and thoughtful consideration, seeking God's wisdom for our local fellowship. If you have comments, feedback, or questions, please feel free to email us at elders@waxhawbiblechurch.org.

Together in Christ,

The Elders of Waxhaw Bible Church