

January 3, 2021

Good morning CrossPoint and friends!

I hope you are doing well and that you are staying safe and healthy. I know we have all missed getting together at church in the last few weeks, but I appreciate your kindness, encouragement, and patience as we go through these difficult times.

We are taking every step to ensure the safety and healthy well-being of our church membership when we meet together on Sundays and Wednesdays. There have been many things that have been discovered in the last few months regarding fighting this virus, but there are still yet many things that we are finding out, requiring us to make difficult decisions and changes. Once again, I appreciate your patience.

In the light of new developments and the spiking of Corona-19 cases, and in the semi-shutdown that our state is experiencing, we desire to be respectful of our government, as well as enjoy our First Amendment right to congregate and to worship. To do so, we have always tried to maintain the federal CDC requirements for social distancing, and I have tried to be respectful for those who are most at risk in our congregation. That will continue to be our approach.

After meeting with our Advisory Council, we determined that the following is a best course of action as a church, to enable us to meet safely and respectfully:

1. We will continue to encourage good social distancing and cleanliness. We will continue taking temperatures and making masks available when people come in. We will also ask more importantly, that our congregation refrain from shaking hands and giving hugs, although I know that will be difficult for most of us. But this is a normal protocol that we would take even in the height of a normal flu season. While we may not get sick, we need to ensure that those who are more susceptible are protected.
2. To create more space without going multiple services, we are removing chairs from the auditorium and installing a large screen monitor and speaker system in the foyer area, where we will put the extra auditorium chairs in that separate room. If you are at higher risk, or are nervous about coming into the main auditorium, you can avail yourself of seating in the foyer, so you can slip in and slip out very quickly, but still be a part of the morning worship service.
3. Of course, we will continue to have services live streamed On Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM in Wednesday at 7:00 PM. along with this, you may still utilize the drive in service, buy parking around the auditorium parking spots, and turning your car stereo to 97.5 FM.

In short, we are trying to create as many ways as is possible to attend our services safely and healthily. You may go Online to Facebook or YouTube, or watch and listen from your car, or sit in the foyer and watch in real time on large screen or attend the live in-person service. These are all options that will hopefully provide for everyone the opportunity to worship, no matter their personal situation.

Finally, I know for some, this has become a lightning rod issue. I would ask you to please pray about this and let us try to be respectful of one another's feelings, health, and spiritual well-being in the church. If you are not wearing a mask during the service, we will assume that you have a medical reason that you are not wearing it. You will not be asked about it, but we take you at your honor.

On the other side of that coin, if you are concerned that everyone is not wearing a mask, including those who have medical conditions , I would encourage you to watch online, or avail yourself of the radio broadcast on 97.5 FM outside the church building. The church should be the one place where we look out for others, and where we think of others first.

Philippians 2:3 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

These are difficult times for everyone, and especially for those in leadership. We have taken these steps to help keep us safe and healthy, but also so that we can continue to have church services in-person. As your pastor, these are small inconveniences (wearing a mask, taking temperatures, ect), but for a much greater good (meeting safely in person). I would pray and hope that each of you would feel the same in your heart. In our society right now, there are times when we are required to do things that we are uncomfortable with, but we do them anyway for the sake of our needs or for the greater good.

Let me reiterate, **I believe it is vital and important that we have church in-person at this time.** In the days, weeks, and months to come, that opportunity may be challenged on a state or federal level. We should take advantage of our freedom right now but try do it as safely and healthily as possible. So please help me as your Pastor and help our Leadership Advisory Council by abiding by these guidelines. If we do so, we will continue to have church in-person, and be able to worship together at CrossPoint Baptist Church.

Finally, If you have not done so already, I would encourage you to mail in your tithes and offerings to CrossPoint at:

CrossPoint Baptist Church

2290 - A 28th St Southwest

Wyoming, Michigan 49519

Or go online to our CrossPoint Website at www.crosspointbc.com/give to give securely online. Please be faithful in giving, so the work of the Lord can continue unaffected.

May God bless you and your family, and may you stay safe and healthy. Please feel free to contact me by Messenger, text, or phone call if you have any further questions.

Pastor Theron Crawford Sr.

Lead Pastor

CrossPoint Baptist Church