



The Senior Pastor and the joint leadership of Deacons and Trustees are pleased to announce that Canaan Baptist Church will reopen for in-person worship on **Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 9:15 AM**. Our prayer is to welcome the congregation and community back to worship in a responsible manner that glorifies God, continues the church's mission, and makes all feel safe.

Does this mean that Canaan is fully reopened to all activities?

Only in-person worship is resuming on Sunday, September 12. All other meetings, bible studies, and ministry activities will remain virtual until further notice.

UPDATED: Will I have to register to attend worship service?

Yes. Worshippers who plan to attend in-person will be required to register. Details on how and when to register will be announced when finalized.

Will I have to wear a face mask?

Yes. Regardless of current guidance, face masks or face coverings will be required to be worn by all attendees over their noses and mouths while indoors anywhere on the Canaan church campus until further notice. The church will provide masks for those attendees who may not have them.

UPDATED: Will I have to submit to a temperature screening?

No. Temperature screenings will not be required. However, both stationary and mobile thermometers are in place and available for those who wish to have their temperature taken.

Will Canaan require proof of a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of worship attendance?

No. Canaan Baptist Church will welcome all who wish to worship in person beginning Sunday, September 12. We will not request vaccination information from any Canaanite or guest. However, the Senior Pastor and church leadership strongly encourage all persons aged 12 and over to consider receiving a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

UPDATED: How will seating and spacing in the Sanctuary be handled?

The spacing and capacity of seating in the sanctuary and in any overflow areas will be based on the safety of all Canaanites and guests. The leadership will always comply with relevant guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and from local and state government when determining seating arrangements, which are subject to change.

Will Canaan provide sanitizing stations?

Hand sanitizing stations have been placed at all entrances and in high-traffic areas throughout the building.

UPDATED: How will Canaan ensure that the sanctuary and other areas are sanitized?

Canaan's Environmental Services team frequently disinfects all surfaces throughout the building and we sanitize all rooms and spaces after they have been occupied. We have upgraded air filters in all areas and will utilize the blowers to maintain a constant flow of fresh air.

I am a new Canaanite. Am I allowed to attend service on September 12?

Yes. All Canaanites are invited and welcome to attend in-person worship each Sunday starting on September 12.

I am a guest. Am I allowed to attend service on September 12?

Yes. First-time and returning guests are welcome to attend in-person worship each Sunday starting on September 12. Canaanites are encouraged to continue inviting their families, friends, and neighbors to become part of the Canaan family of faith.



Will pew bibles and hymnals be available?

No. Items which are commonly handled by multiple worshippers will be removed from the sanctuary for the foreseeable future to reduce the rate of surface contamination. Bibles and hymnals are being removed to streamline the cleaning process and to protect them from damage that may be caused by sanitization efforts. Worship attendees are always encouraged to bring their own bibles or to use bible software on their smartphones or tablets. Hymns and other music lyrics as well as the Church Covenant will be printed in the bulletin until the sanctuary screens are installed.

UPDATED: Will the parking shuttle from the Mastery/Pickett lot be available?

Yes. Parking will be available at the Master/Pickett parking facility. The shuttle will be available prior to and after all Sunday worship services.

UPDATED: Will Children's Church, Teen Church, and Nursery Ministry resume on September 12?

The Children's Church and Nursery Ministries will continue on hiatus until further notice. The Teen Church ministry is working on plans to resume their activities sometime soon. Plans will be announced as they are developed. Among other factors, plans for all youth-centered ministries will depend on vaccine availability and effectiveness for children under age 12.

How will Holy Communion be served?

The Diaconate Ministry is working to determine the safest and most effective way to distribute Holy Communion elements on fourth Sundays. Details will follow as plans are finalized.

How will tithes and offerings be collected?

The Trustee Ministry will utilize the tithe box and offering baskets to receive contributions from Canaanites and guests in a contactless manner. Canaanites and guests may also continue to give electronically via the Abundant app, via the church website, or by texting GEMOFG to 73256.

Will Cannan still host its drive throughs on the second and fourth Saturdays each month?

As we return to in-person worship, the leadership will consider adjusting the drive through schedule based on several factors including in-person attendance, drive through participation, safety, weather, and resource availability. Canaanites should continue to pay close attention to announcements and pastoral emphasis.

Which areas of the church campus will be open?

Only those areas of the building necessary for worship and personal needs will be open. Open areas will be limited to the main sanctuary, the narthex, the main hallway, any area(s) designated for sanctuary overflow, and the restrooms. All other areas will remain closed until further notice.

Have there been any major changes to the sanctuary?

Yes. Since the spring of 2020, significant enhancements have been made in the sanctuary. Canaanites should expect to experience new and improved lighting, improved sound, improved temperature control, and other aesthetic adjustments. Notably, the balcony has been reconfigured to host additional equipment, infrastructure, and personnel related to the audio, lighting, and streaming systems and is now a secure area. Balcony-level seating is no longer available to the congregation or public.

How can I as an individual support Canaan's reopening strategy?

All Canaanites are asked to pray for the church family as we move toward reopening. Those Canaanites who are not actively serving in a church ministry are encouraged to pray for God's guidance on how their time and talent can be best utilized for Kingdom service. Those Canaanites who are active in ministry are encouraged to work with their servant leaders in their preparations for the resumption of ministry activity.



I am a ministry servant leader. How should my ministry be preparing for the return to service?

Servant leaders of ministries directly involved with the Sunday worship experience will be contacted soon regarding how their ministries will be expected to serve and how they should prepare. All other servant leaders will continue to be contacted and consulted as reopening plans develop.

What can I do to keep myself, my family and my fellow Canaanites safe?

Canaanites and guests will be required to wear a mask or face covering and encouraged to sanitize or wash their hands frequently. As always, those who are at high risk for infection or who are feeling ill with symptoms of any kind are asked to stay home and join us virtually via Streaming Church TV, YouTube Live, or Zoom until they are better. Lastly, the Senior Pastor and church leadership strongly encourage all persons aged 12 and over to consider receiving a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

Who is involved in determining when the church reopens?

Canaan's senior leadership team of the Senior Pastor and the Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the Deacon and Trustee Ministries continue to work prayerfully to develop our reopening strategy. The Director of Operations, Head Usher, Deaconess Ministry, and ministry Servant Leaders will continue to be consulted as plans come together. The congregation at large will continue to be consulted via surveys and polls which are designed to ensure that the leadership's planning is aligned with the will of the people we serve. Canaanites are strongly encouraged to participate in any surveys or polls which are announced.

When will Canaan resume in-person weddings, funerals, ministry meetings, rehearsals, and other events and activities?

The senior leadership team will continue to evaluate pandemic data, government guidance, Canaan's own resources, and other factors with the intent to resume these services and activities soon. No formal plans are currently in place; however, announcements will be made as plans develop.

Other churches are already open. Why is Canaan waiting until September to reopen?

Canaan's post-COVID reopening plans have been centered on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the safety and wellbeing of the Canaanites, and compliance with best practices and relevant guidance from government, our denominational partners, and our insurers. The leadership agreed to take additional time to evaluate new guidance as well as the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine before determining a reopening date.

Are the reopening plans in place final? Can things still change?

All announced reopening plans are subject to change based on the will of God, evolution of the pandemic, availability of church resources, and other factors. Canaanites should always pay close attention to announcements, mass messages and notifications, and pastoral emphasis to ensure they have the most recent information.

I'm not quite ready to return to in-person worship. Will the services continue to be streamed?

Yes. Canaan's worship services will continue to be streamed via Streaming Church TV, YouTube Live, and Zoom.

Where can I find information about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccine information is available via the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://www.vaccines.gov>. This site includes information about the virus as well as a national database of vaccine availability.

I have additional questions regarding the reopening. How do I contact Canaan's leadership team?

Additional questions may be sent to the leadership team via email at observations@canaanbaptistchurch.org.