*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.  Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.  Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.   
Psalm 100:1-5 (NIV)*

For those who feel comfortable to return to worship at FBCG, I am very pleased to announce that we will be **offering two services beginning this Sunday, June 7**! Because Adams County is still in yellow, we are opening with some limitations and restrictions which we feel will help assure a level of protection while also enjoying a new freedom to gather. We recognize that some of you are quite eager to return to corporate worship while others have legitimate concerns about returning in person at this time. Please proceed as you deem best and know that I support you in your decision!

We will continue to add ministries and more programs as we move into the green. Starting June 7 this is what you can expect:

**Inside Worship Offered at 8:30am**.

* For everyone’s safety and peace of mind, social distancing practices will be adhered to. Ushers will assist people to sit at least 6 feet apart, including next to, in front of and behind those around you. Handshakes, hugs and close contact are discouraged at this time.
* **Masks for this indoor service and when entering the church are required** (The only exception is when the preacher, musicians or soloist are on stage. They will be further back on the stage and the first several pews will remain unoccupied).
* Congregational singing will not be offered. COVID-19 spreads primarily through vapor from one’s mouth and lungs. We encourage you to worship the Lord in Spirit, perhaps humming or light lip worshiping under your mask as the music is offered. There will be special music and an occasional soloist or video.
* Pew Bibles and hymnals are not to be used. Please bring your own Bible or read along on the screen. Lyrics will be available on the screen.
* There will be no refreshments (including coffee).
* Volunteers will disinfect high use areas.
* Touchless hand sanitizer stands will be available.
* The pulpit will be placed back a few feet from the front and there will be no sitting in first two pews to limit vapor exposure from those on the stage.
* No Nursery, Children’s Church, or Sunday School will be offered.
* Only the foyer, foyer restrooms and sanctuary will be open and thoroughly cleaned. Please do not use other parts of the church at this time.
* This service will be recorded and made available for viewing in the coming week.

**Outside Worship Offered at 10:30am**.

* Social distancing practices adhered to. Please be sensitive of those who may not wish to handshake or hug.
* This service is dependent on favorable weather conditions and will be canceled (we will try to do this by Saturday night) if it is raining, storming, or poor weather is imminent.
* Bring your favorite lawn chair, but we will also offer metal chairs. **Please sit 6 feet apart, including next to, behind and before family groups around you.** – Please do not stack chairs at end of service as they will need to be wiped down with disinfectant.
* Masks suggested but not required. **Please use a mask if going inside to use the bathroom.**
* Congregational singing is at each attender’s discretion. **Please be mindful of others around you and do not project your voice. Remember, COVID spreads primarily through your mouth vapor and you may be contagious but not aware that you are.** Please worship the Lord with care for your neighbor in mind.
* Playground open but at the discretion and responsibility of the parent, hand sanitizer stands available. **There will not be volunteer supervision offered at the playground.**
* Crafts and basic teaching for children at the pavilion with social distancing to be offered for approximately 20 minutes after the opening worship song set. Those on the playground will be invited to join this teaching/craft time. We will let parents know when this time is completed so that children can return to be with their parents or to the playground. **Please be advised that we are not disinfecting the playground during this time and liability and use are the sole responsibility of the parent (s).**

We anticipate each service being about 50 minutes long. Both services on June 7 will include disposable communion and wafer cups handed out at the beginning of each service. We ask that you hold on to the cups and lids and dispose of them in the waste baskets provided as you leave the service. We will not have bulletins the first few weeks but will hand out song sheets as you arrive at the outdoor service. We are confident that as the county moves to green we will be opening more of the building and ministries (most likely in July).

**What We are Doing**

While we move into greater freedom, we are still taking the threat of the Coronavirus and your protection seriously. Here’s what we are doing:

* We are adding 9 air scrubbers to our HVAC systems thanks to Holtzople’s. These scrubbers are a special UV light and photocatalyst target to kill air-borne viruses (including COVID-19) and get rid of airborne toxins that can cause “allergies, sinus issues, nausea, headaches, and other ailments.” We will continually circulate our air through these scrubbers.
* We also are replacing all our bathroom faucets and making them touchless faucets including the two urinals in the men’s bathroom. Because of the type of toilets we have, we cannot convert them over to touchless. Obviously, we encourage washing of hands after use and we will regularly disinfect levers and door handles during operating hours. We strongly encourage good sanitary practice (thorough hand washing and using a paper towel to open the door on your way out so that you do not touch door handle.)
* We are removing the two drinking fountains and will be replacing them with bottled water stations.
* Two stands offering touch free hand sanitizers have been added and will be available, a third is back ordered and will be coming soon.
* While we will open on June 7, we are only opening the foyer and sanctuary and ask that you stay in that part of the building only.
* Although some staff are working from their church office, church offices and building will not officially be open until we move into the green phase. The pastoral staff will continue to be available via phone, email and by request for a physical visit.
* Kathy will continue to run the office mostly from her home until we are opened in the green.
* There are several Bible studies that are starting to meet in person and some meeting via zoom. If you wish to join one of these, please let me know.
* Several small groups are also forming for study and fellowship. Let us know if you are looking for one of these, or if you are forming one open to more members.
* As described above, in June, we will continue to provide a full range of Church App and Web videos and services.

**What We are Asking:**

* We are asking for **prayerful patience and compliance to our guidelines** as we open. Moving to fully open in this global pandemic will be a process that will take some time and most likely involve some inconveniences.
* If you are **feeling sick, have a fever or cold, please do not attend**. Seek medical advice and let us know how we can be praying for you.
* **If you are 65 or older or an adult with serious underlying health conditions, please take extra precautions and consider attending after we are in the green phase of opening.**
* **If you are not sure about your level of heath, please ask your doctor for recommendations.**
* **Please keep our staff, church family, community, cities and leaders in your prayers. Coming from this season of COVID-19 into these riots is a great concern and we desperately need a movement of God to bring us into healing and wellness.**