

October 2021

Greetings, Beloved Church Family!

Can you feel the excitement in the air? We're headed back to church!

I'm so excited to announce that we are only one month away from gathering together again as a congregational community. The Lord has preserved us and prospered us over the past 18 months. As we move into this 19th month of our separation from one another, we are delighted to plan our return to campus and our Triumphant Entry into the Cathedral at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church!

So much hard work has gone into the preparation for our congregational return. As of this writing, your church leaders and hospitality ministries are coordinating our efforts to serve you with excellence upon your return. Although our original plans of returning this month had to be modified, we remain excited that on the first Sunday of November those who desire to physically worship with us, and register to do so, will be warmly welcomed back "home"! Our new service times, as of this month, are 8:00am and 11:30am. The Sunday School hour will be from 10:00-11:00 each Sunday. We are still working on the plan for the commencement of in-person Sunday School.

To prepare our hearts and spirits for our return, we are delighted that four nationally renowned pastors have consented to be with us this month for Wednesdays in the Word! We will be blessed to receive the anointed preaching ministries of Dr. Otis B. Moss, III, Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart, Dr. Maurice Watson and Dr. Lance Watson, respectively. It's going to be an exciting month as we continue sharing our Songs of Ascents on our way back to Wheeler Avenue!

I joyfully celebrate all the hardworking women and men who have helped us to get to this point on our journey. Our Board Chairs and their boards, our Building Committee Chairs, along with each committee member and our church staff, with special gratitude to our Executive Pastor, Rev. Alexander E.M. Johnson, have all shown how coordinated camaraderie, mixed with amazing acumen, exceptional experience and the faithful favor of the Lord, still yield phenomenal results! Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for bringing this labor of love to fruition. I have much more to say about all of them when we gather, but suffice it to say, I am a blessed pastor to have such gifted and committed people as a part of the team. To God be the glory!

I can't wait to see you all in the next few weeks. Our church leaders and I will worship together in person beginning October 17th. They will serve as forerunners to the congregational return to ensure that all systems are operable and we will be ready to worship the Lord in excellence by November. Each person who will be in the Cathedral is fully vaccinated and I strongly encourage every person who is not yet vaccinated, but eligible for vaccination, to roll your sleeves up and *get those shots!* That is the only way all of us will be able to truly worship together without heightened concern for infections from COVID-19. To be completely frank, I earnestly desire that every single one of our members who is eligible will receive one of the three available vaccines. It's our best route to the eradication of this horrific and life-taking virus! Let the Church say, AMEN!

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With the vision in view,

M.D. Cosby