



First Baptist Church of Kasson ARK COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures

ARK Guiding Principles

We are excited to start the ARK season again! The A.R.K. (Always Reaching Kids) Leadership team has put together the following guidelines and procedures that adhere to the [CDC](#), [MN Dept of Health](#) guidelines for communities of worship, and [Governor Walz's Mask Requirement](#) as we operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

No pressure to attend

- We understand that some may not be ready to do in-person ARK based on their personal health considerations or circumstances and may not feel comfortable attending ARK in-person. There is an online option for kids and families to sign up for and be a part of. We also encourage that you monitor your children's health and do not attend ARK if they are not feeling well, have a fever or if they are showing any signs of the Coronavirus.

Maintain social distancing throughout the ARK service

- In accordance with social distancing guidelines, we will strive to maintain 6 feet social distancing as best we can by designing traffic flows throughout the church and ARK service and seating arrangements for kids.

Facial Coverings

- Facial coverings such as face masks are **REQUIRED** at all times (except snack) for adult volunteers and children who attend ARK, and for any parent/guardian picking up their child. This is required per [Governor's Walz Mask Requirement](#). Individuals with approved doctors notice of approved exemptions will not be required to wear a face covering, or children ages 2 through 5.

Strive to maintain a clean and contactless environment

- The church will adhere to regular weekly cleanings and disinfecting of high contact areas. We will limit the use of church space for purposes of limiting traffic flow and avoiding excessive contact. There will be hand sanitizer placed throughout the church for ARK leaders and kids to use.

Operation Logistics

Length of ARK

- The ARK season will start as planned on Sept 16, 2020 and finish on March 24, 2021.
- The length of the ARK service will be shortened to 6:30-7:30pm

Child Drop Off/Arrival:

- Please drop off your child(ren) at the main entrance of the church by 6:30pm.
- Please do not drop off your child(ren) any earlier than 10 min prior to the start of ARK.
- When students enter the church they will be directed into the sanctuary to be seated. During the colder months, students can hang up their jackets/hats/gloves on the coat rack before entering the sanctuary. Students will not be able to run around and play before or after ARK as in the past.

Child Pick Up/Departure:

- Parents/guardians can arrive by 7:30pm to pick up their child(ren).
- If parents arrive early, parents will need to wait in the foyer area (outside of the sanctuary) until ARK is over.
- Parents will be directed into the sanctuary to pick up their child(ren)
- Children will not be allowed to leave without their parent/guardian

ARK Service Logistics

- Seating: Groups will be spread out among the sanctuary to maintain 6 ft social distancing. While sitting in their group, students will be seated to meet social distancing recommendations.
- Singing: We will be singing songs as usual but will be doing it with a required face covering
- Snack: Snacks will happen. All snacks will be individually wrapped. Children will be instructed to use hand-sanitizer before having snacks as we have instructed in the past.
- Small Group Time: Small groups will be directed to sit at different locations throughout the church for groups to meet.
- Game Time: Doing game time at ARK poses too many challenges to maintain social distancing. There will not be game time during ARK.
- Store: We will have Store Nights as part of ARK. Store Nights will be hosted on a different night of the week and children and families will be instructed to come to the store at a specified time. More details to come.
- Bringing Friends: This was a very hard decision to make among the ARK Leadership Team, but to maintain social distancing in the sanctuary and during small group time, we do not have space to accommodate additional friends attending ARK. Please encourage them to sign up to join ARK online.

- Parties: ARK Leadership are creatively thinking of ways to have a Fall, Christmas, and end of the ARK season parties. More details to come.