



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST,

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, CONNECTING PEOPLE TO SERVICE.

First Baptist Church

O F K E N T O N

Come Join Our Connection!

March 18, 2020

RE: Our Response to Covid-19

Dear Church Family,

As you know there are new developments each day as they relate to Coronavirus pandemic. The deacons, staff, and I have been in continual conversation as to how we should respond given this most difficult time in the history of our nation and world. On Monday our government leaders requested that groups of ten or more should refrain from meeting for a period of weeks to help mitigate the spread of this virus. Also, Bro. Randy Davis, representing our Tennessee Baptist Mission Board encouraged churches to not have in-person services but to have online only services instead.

The deacons, staff, and I met Monday night and given the recommendations from our government leaders and encouragement of our TBMB we have decided to cancel in-person services and all activities effective immediately and through at least Wednesday, April 1st at which time we will reassess the situation and issue further guidance. This was done with a heavy heart, but with the realization it was best for the safety and health of our congregation and the community.

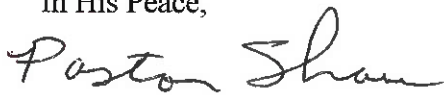
What this means is that our services will be online via Facebook and YouTube at our regular Sunday morning service time of 11AM. We will continue to worship in prayer, song, giving, and the preaching of the Word as we gather from a distance. I will also go live on Wednesdays at 7PM with a midweek word of encouragement that will help us to stay connected.

This temporary change of no in person gatherings means that we must proactive in ministry. There will be opportunities for ministry that we need to be involved in because our community is hurting and needs the hope we have to offer. We are in the process of preparing care boxes of groceries and paper goods to distribute to those in need. This will take place this Friday, March 20 from 5:30-7PM. People can drive up and we will deliver the care box to them and offer to pray and minister to them. There is also discussion of doing a hot lunch meal on Wednesday's for the community. We plan to have a drive through prayer gathering where people can drive up and receive prayer and encouragement from you, God's people, during this trying time. Stay tuned to how you can help with these ministry projects.

We are also calling on everyone to help us stay connected to one another while we are not meeting in person. We want to pray for, encourage, and help one another because we realize this need is great now more than ever. This is how we plan to approach this proactively. We are asking everyone to “adopt” five church families that you will be responsible to connect with each week. You can do this via phone call, text, cards, etc. This will allow us to pray for one another, assess the needs people have, and offer much needed encouragement. The family lists are already compiled and ready for distribution to you. Please reach out to Pastor Shawn and request a list and he will email your list of families. There will likely be people you don’t know or don’t know well on your list, so this is a good time to get to know them better. This will keep us connected and build unity among God’s people.

This is a crisis we have never seen in our lifetime and I believe we can show the world the love of Christ now more than ever as His church. This crisis is a call to love in action. Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus during this time through connecting people to Christ and his gospel, connecting to one another and our community, and connecting to the abundance of ministry and missions’ opportunities that lie before us. Let me leave you with these words of encouragement from the Word of God, Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.” (HCSB) May He give to us His understanding and guidance.

In His Peace,



Pastor Shawn

Check out some important links below where you can access our services and online giving as well as a list of important numbers.

Online giving: www.firstkenton.com/giving or https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/716822

FBC Kenton Facebook page: [@firstbaptistchurchkentontn](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchkentontn)

FBC YouTube Channel: [fbckenton](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfbcKenton)

Important Phone Numbers:

Church Office- 731-749-5780

Pastor Shawn- 731-415-2472