

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

A Word From Your Pastor

Hello everyone, I hope that you are doing well. It has certainly been a very unusual month this month! We have made some huge strides and yet we are still being affected by the continuing COVID 19 pandemic. Think about it, this past month we went from watching sermons only online to having parking lot services. Then we progressed from parking lot services to holding services in the FLC. I made a joke the other day speaking to one of our members, I am running out of new places on our campus to preach a sermon!

The church leaders and I met, and we have decided to remain in the FLC *at least* for the next month or so. Our reasoning for this decision was it is easier to maintain social distancing in the gym, the chairs are easier to clean than the pews, we would not be able to utilize most of the area of the sanctuary since every other pew would be blocked off, and meeting in the gym is still gathering together as a church family (in other words, we wouldn't gain as much as we would lose by going into the sanctuary at the moment).

I have so much appreciated everyone's kindness and unity during these trying times. It has also been a great joy to actually preach to people again (as opposed to a camera or a windshield). That being said, we are still placing our sermons online and we certainly understand if you and your family decide to abstain from attending the service on Sunday morning. I want to reiterate that point...No one will think ill of you if you decide to abstain from the service, do what you feel to be best for yourself and your family! Especially if you are within the danger age range!

Through this I have really been reminded of God's sovereignty and my own inability to dictate what happens around me. God knows exactly what is happening, He knows exactly how this works out, and He is accomplishing His perfect will through this. Two verses of Scripture that I have been meditating on here lately are Psalm 139:13 "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them" and 1 Peter 4:19 "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good".

So then let us glory in God's omniscient sovereignty as we entrust our souls to our Father, while we do good as citizens of the Kingdom of God! I am praying for you all.

Blessings in Christ,
Cole

A CHURCH COMING TOGETHER AGAIN

BRO. DUSTIN WHITE

For the past couple of months we have been a church that has been enduring this pandemic of Covid 19. We have gone from doing video services to drive in services to gym services in the past month. It has been a blessing to start to see our church family again. I wish tomorrow we could go back to everything as normal, but we cannot just yet. We have to continue to be considerate of our community and help protect our neighbors. In these days we should remember Matthew 7:12 the "Golden Rule" because the care we want for ourselves should be the care we show to others during these sensitive times. We need to be wise at this time as we start to come out from our homes.

I am a guy that loves to interact with people in person. I enjoy being able to shake hands with people. I thrive on affection being through actions then words. However in the world we are currently living in we need to still love our neighbors. (Matthew 22:37-40) We still need to love people. This most likely means we will need to get creative with our words to show our encouragement and our love for people.

During this time I have been amazed and proud of FBC Spurger in how they have conducted themselves in being considerate of their members and community. We have shown much love during this time. At this point I have served at FBC Spurger a full calendar year and it has been a blessing and honor to be your Associate Pastor during this time. It has been a crazy year, but it is a year I will cherish. For this, I want to thank you FBC Spurger. Also I want to

charge you FBC Spurger to continue to come together in this unique time in our church.

Things to pray for

Gym Services

Camp Fuego 2020

Mission Trip to Arlington, Tx 2020

Our Leaders

Preaching to the Choir

Psalm 122:1 -- I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

One of the unseen blessings of quarantine and "social distancing" is the joyful blessing of *returning* to the Lord's house. King David left no doubt: he loved the Lord's house -- the Temple -- and he loved attending regularly.

Psalm 26:8 -- LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth.

It is so good to see so many of you attending our modified services in the Family Life Center. Your faithfulness says a lot about your love for the Lord's house and for the Lord's people. Even the drive-in services in April were a testimony to your desire to be in church worshipping with fellow Believers.

How we rejoice and give thanks for your faithfulness! Looking ahead, we intend to keep you safe and we'll add chairs to accommodate larger crowds. . .much like we did last Sunday.

No doubt there are many *other* things we could be doing: sleeping in; yard work; fishing. . .I look forward to each 50-mile drive between Bevil Oaks and Spurger, knowing that I have the privilege of working; serving in the house of the Lord!

Psalm 84:10 -- For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Thank you again for your faithfulness! We look forward to seeing you, Sunday by Sunday!

Brother John