

March 18, 2020

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace be unto you during these trying and difficult times. Our community – as well as our world – is struggling with confronting COVID-19 (the coronavirus). This deadly virus has claimed many lives worldwide and has infected people of all ages. Big Spring, Texas, is not immune.

Twenty counties have recorded positive tests for COVID-19. Currently, Howard County has no confirmed cases of a person ill with the coronavirus. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) is urging Americans to implement safeguards to protect the population; sanitize and maintain space. Wash your hands and keep a safe social distance from others. Please heed these measures!

First Baptist Church is taking measures to minimize contamination risks for our congregants and guests. The CDC and President Trump are advising people not to gather in groups of more than ten. Texas Governor Abbott has declared a statewide health emergency. I believe this is good counsel. While this is definitely not ideal, nor is it our first choice, we are compelled to obey Romans 13 with regards to obeying the authorities over us.

Some might accuse us of overreacting, but I would be heartbroken to think we might hurt some of our church family by continuing to meet when we have been asked not to. Please pray with me during this difficult season. Please pray we can show our confidence in God's capacity during this time.

The Sunday morning service will be broadcast each Sunday **AT 10:00 A.M.** with the necessary support personnel. You will be able to worship with us through Live Stream!

1. On your computer, type in [www.fbcbigspring.org](http://www.fbcbigspring.org)
2. Click on "Live Stream".
3. Once connected, turn up the volume on your computer.

The Morning Worship Service will be available to watch at your convenience throughout the week on the same page of our website. Please

let us know if you are participating in the Live Stream by sending an email to [info@fcbigspring.org](mailto:info@fcbigspring.org).

In addition to the change in our Sunday morning services, the following activities will not be held:

1. Sunday night worship.
2. Wednesday night meal, Bible Study, Children and Youth gatherings, and Choir.
3. LLL, Deaf fellowships, Ladies First, and Men's Breakfast.
4. Funerals and weddings.
5. Mother's Day Out.
6. Extracurricular activities.

The Family Life Center will also be closed.

The Church Office will be open during its regular business hours. The Ministerial Staff will be available to serve the church and our community.

These measures will remain in effect until:

- Howard County schools resume on-campus classes. Church activities return to normal.
- The CDC rescinds its guidelines and warnings.

If you have any questions concerning these temporary guidelines, please call the church office at 432.267.8223 or me at 432.254.0176.

The Lord is giving us a prime opportunity to express the love of Christ to people who might be fearfully enduring this interruption of their everyday lives. Find ways to let the Gospel be made known. The Scripture says to *redeem the time.* (Ephesians 5:16) Let us not tarry in our faithfulness!

With much love!