



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Saved By Faith Youth Camp* will be June 15-19. Registration information is available at www.sbfyckansas.com.

If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

A LETTER TO A CHURCH FROM ITS LEADERS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

By Tom Ascol

<https://founders.org/2020/03/20/a-letter-to-a-church-from-its-leaders-in-a-time-of-pandemic/>

Pastors and church leaders around the world are trying to shepherd local congregations through the pandemic created by Covid-19. Many principles must be considered in order to do this well. The application of those principles is difficult at best and good people can disagree on the best ways to do so. As I wrote previously in this article, we should show grace to brothers and sisters of good will who come to different conclusions about whether to meet or how to meet. This recent update that was sent by the elders of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida, is posted as an example of one way that one church is dealing with the challenges of the pandemic. It was emailed on March 19, 2020. It is posted here with the hope that it might help other church leaders to think through these issues and also to help church members know better how to pray for their leaders.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Covid-19 virus has brought significant challenges to us, our community, and our nation. We have been reminded of human limitations and sinfulness as well as the sovereignty and goodness of God. After much prayer, counsel, and discussion over whether we should assemble this Lord's Day or not, we have concluded that it is best for us not to meet for worship this Sunday, March 22,

(Continued on page 2)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Letter to a Church from Its Leaders in a Time of Pandemic.....	2-3
Comments on Our Purpose Statement.....	2
Upcoming Conferences.....	3
Grace Bible Conference	4
Contact Us	5
Pulpit Supply.....	5
Prayer Meetings.....	5

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

"If there is no church... should you not commence one?" C. H. Spurgeon

COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

Faithful Preaching of the Word of God...

"It cannot be easy to see souls in the highway to destruction, and not use our utmost endeavor to bring them back from sin, and show them the dreadful consequence of running into evil. Christians cannot bear to see those souls for whom Christ died, perish for want of knowledge."

*George Whitefield
Whitefield's Sermons (Grand Rapids, MI: Christian Classics Ethereal Library). Sermon: "The Great Duty of Charity Recommended"*

(Continued from page 1)

2020. While we will certainly miss the joy of gathering for worship, we make this decision in faith trusting it is pleasing to the Lord. We want you to understand how we have come to this decision and the basis on which we will be evaluating what we do going forward.

No federal, state, or local governments have mandated that churches shut down our public gatherings. We have listened carefully to the statements coming from President Trump and Governor DeSantis as they have declared states of emergency in our nation and in Florida. We have also studied the Center for Disease Control guidelines for gathering in groups. As you know, when a church meets for worship it is not merely a social gathering. It is an assembly of people called by God, saved by Jesus, and empowered by His Spirit for the purpose of testifying to the greatness and glory of our Triune God as we hear from His Word. Because of this, your elders have done our best to consider and apply Scriptural principles to our situation.

Here are the main principles that have guided us

1. We are the church of Jesus Christ. He is our Lord and Head (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). Therefore, He is our ultimate authority—our King and our God. His commandments are our clear duty. He has revealed His will to us in His Word. Scripture clearly teaches that gathering for worship is vital for a church (Hebrews 10:25). As you know, many evangelicals in our land minimize this point and treat the gathering of the church as optional. Yet a church's public worship lies at the very heart of its purpose. Our own confession makes this clear when it states, "Those who are called he commands to live together in local societies, or churches, for their mutual edification and the fitting conduct of public worship that he requires of them while they are in the world" (Second London Confession, 26.5).
2. As elders, we are called to shepherd this flock so as to equip you and see you built up into "the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood" (Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4). We are called to discharge our duties knowing that one day we will stand to give an account before God for how we have led this church (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Hebrews 13:17). This means we must not only teach God's Word accurately but we must also make difficult decisions with wisdom and prudence.
3. All people—especially all Christians—are called to love the God supremely and our neighbors sincerely (Matthew 22:37-40). As Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:12 (the "golden rule"), "So whatever you wish

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

4. Christ tells us to honor civil authorities (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). They are God’s servants whom He calls to promote good and punish evil. Their authority is not inherent, but rather is vested in them by God. That is, God has delegated authority to them in civil affairs. If ever civil authorities tried to coerce disobedience to Jesus Christ, then Christians are obligated to disobey (Acts 4:19; 5:29; Daniel 3:8-18; 6:6-13).

Though the civil government has not issued a mandate that churches not meet during this time, both governmental authorities have encouraged limiting group gatherings. We understand them to be exercising their best judgment in offering short-term guidelines for the welfare of everyone in our nation. They have access to medical experts who, though not infallible, have information and understanding that most citizens (including us) do not have. These guidelines have been encouraged as a means of slowing down the spread of the deadly Covid-19 virus. The governmental authorities have not singled out churches in making these recommendations. These guidelines are not sinful. On the contrary, they seem to be prudent.

In light of all of this, it seems prudent to us that we not meet this Sunday, March 22. There have been other, rare occasions when we have not met, namely when hurricanes were bearing down on us or floods made travel treacherous. The decisions not to meet in those situations were far easier to make than this current one, largely because there are so many unknowns about this virus. Even medical experts acknowledge that we are in uncharted territory.

It is a weighty matter to decide not to meet as a church. We have made this decision only after much agonizing and careful consideration of the principles listed above. We also recognize that the guidelines suggested by civil authorities have changed many times in the last week. They may well change again in the next week.

In order to be as careful as we can be, the elders have decided to monitor the situation day-by-day and to wait until next week to decide about what to do on Sunday, March 29.

We realize that we are in an area of prudence and wisdom in making these decisions. Reasonable Christians can and do disagree. We have come to this decision out of ultimate devotion to Jesus Christ, genuine respect for the civil authorities that God has given us, and sincere love for our neighbors.

Our elders and deacons will be reaching out to the membership over the next several days to check on everyone. Please let us know of any needs that you have. We encourage you to take extra precautions during this time out of love and deference for others. If you are uncertain about what to do, consult the Center for Disease Control for guidance.

We will be providing materials to encourage you to worship the Lord in your home on this coming Lord’s Day. Remember to pray for one another. Use our online church directory to help you do that. Pray for your elders and deacons. Pray for our civil leaders and those working to combat this virus. Check our church website and social media posts (Twitter and Facebook) for updated information.

We love you and thank the Lord for the privilege of serving you in these challenging days.

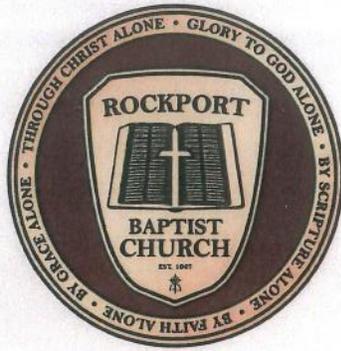
In behalf of the elders,

Pastor Tom

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

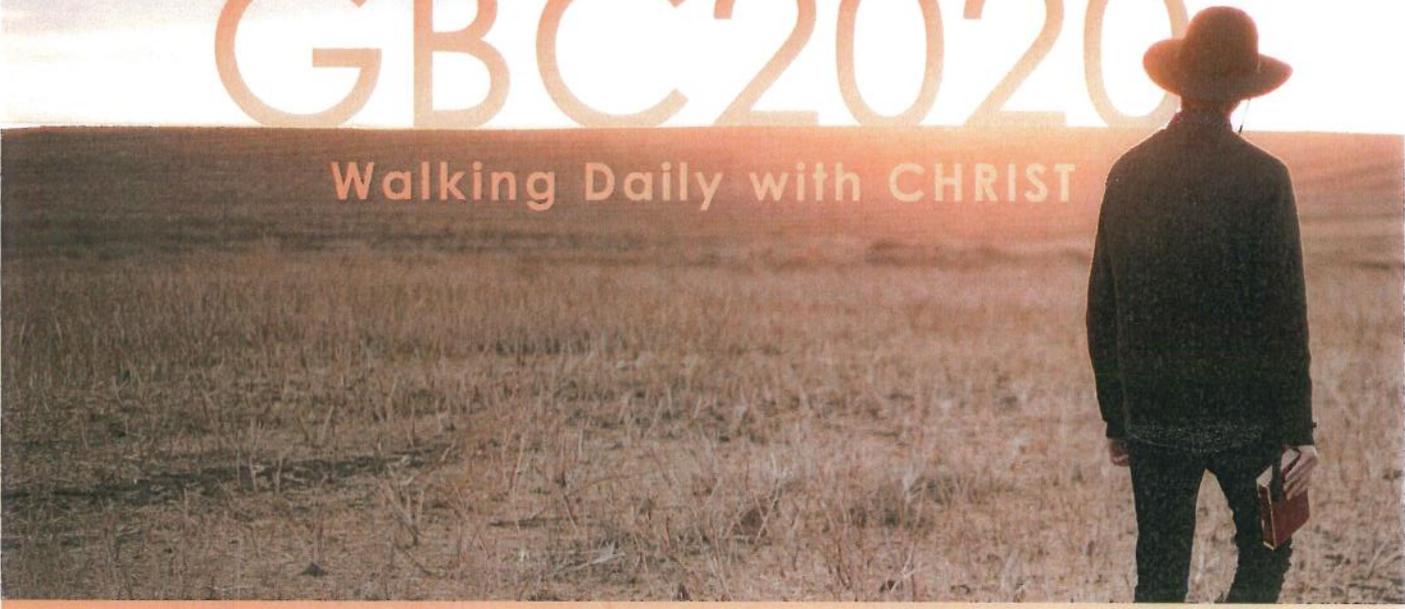
Grace Bible Conference—April 24-26. Rockport Baptist Church, Arnold, MO. “Walking with Christ.” The SBAOC spring meeting will be held in conjunction with this conference.

2020 Saved By Faith Youth Camp—June 15-19. Webster Conference Center, Salina, Kansas. <https://www.sbfyckansas.com/>



GBC 2020

Walking Daily with CHRIST



Grace Bible Conference ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

Exploring both the heart motive and the practical discipline of *WALKING DAILY WITH CHRIST*.

April 24-26

**SPURGEON
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
OF CHURCHES**

**PO Box 155
Wamego KS 66547**

Phone: (785) 456-8513

Email:
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Contact Us:

Administrative Council:

J.W. Glidewell

Moderator & Western Coordinator

Phone: (785) 772-1176

jwglidewell@gmail.com

Terry Coker

Vice Moderator

& Eastern Coordinator

Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com

Tony Mattia

Corresponding Secretary

Phone: (785) 456-3796

spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Ken Jorgenson, At Large

kjorg@hotmail.com

Robin Jackson, At Large

jacksonrobin@gmail.com

Bill Ascol, At Large

bascol@sbcglobal.net

Lyn Hansen, At Large

pastorlyn@insidenp.com

Anthony Harwell, At Large

anthonyharwell@gmail.com



WWW.SBAOC.ORG

MEN AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

Kevin Berens
Colby, Kansas
Email: berens.kevin@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 785-332-7184

Nathaniel Penland
Lawrenceville, Georgia
Email: n8penland@gmail.com
Phone: 678-925-7024

Tim Lambert
Lindsborg, Kansas
Email: tlambert@smokyvalley.org
Phone: 785-614-3651

Bake Ottogy
St. Louis, Missouri
Email: bakeottogy@gmail.com
Phone: 636-467-7446

Brad Richardson
Lawrence, Kansas
Email: richbud@hotmail.com
Phone: 785-766-7268

John Grove
Ocala, FL
Email: trsjwg@gmail.com
Phone: 352-286-5494

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.



Baptist Association of Churches