

Friendship Baptist Church

1391 Sykesville Road -- Sykesville, Maryland 21784 -- 410-442-5506 -- www.fbcmd.org

March 17, 2020

Dear Friendship Baptist Church Family:

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23–25, ESV)

The extraordinary efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus has had a tremendous impact on our nation, communities, families and church. The self-imposed social distancing, the closing of businesses and restaurants and government mandates to curtail public meetings has caused all of us to rethink how we can stay connected to another. Our daily and weekly routines that helped us to stay connected have changed. This is especially true for our church family since we are no longer able to meet for Sunday Worship, GrowGroups and/or ConnectionGroups. Consider the challenge and the opportunity that this presents to us. On any given Sunday, more than 350 people worshiped and close to 300 people participated in GrowGroups or ConnectionGroups at Friendship Baptist Church. People of all ages at FBC are now impacted.

The entire leadership team at FBC understands the challenge and opportunity and we are taking immediate steps to fill this void. We are thankful that God has provided the resources and technology that will allow us to creatively stay connected to one another and to minister to one another during this unprecedented set of circumstances. We can and will stay connected through a combination of pre-recorded worship videos and live streaming GrowGroup and ConnectionGroup meetings. Our plan will provide a format for all members of FBC to maintain their weekly routines of Sunday morning worship and GrowGroup activities and to participate in their weekly ConnectionGroups from their homes.

Beginning this Sunday, March 22, we will be implementing two programs:

- 1) A new ***FBC Sunday Morning Worship Experience*** will be produced for you to view on our webpage. The *FBC Sunday Morning Worship Experience* video will include announcements, scripture reading, prayer, songs, and a message. The experience will be approximately 30 to 40 minutes long. To participate in the experience, go to FBCMD.org and click on the *FBC Sunday Morning Worship Experience* icon.
- 2) ***ZOOM Live Video Meeting for Sunday morning GrowGroups*** (Student Ministry through Adults). This is a live stream meeting format that will allow interaction between participants. The meeting will last 40 minutes and include prayer and a condensed version of your scheduled lesson for that week. Your GrowGroup leader will send you an

invitation via email to participate in the meetings. This program is very user-friendly. However, we recognize that some find the use of new technology to be a bit unnerving. Please know that we are here to assist you with set-up or any difficulties you may encounter. Click on this link <https://zoom.us/resources> to be directed to the ZOOM Resource page where you will find numerous one-minute video's on how to use ZOOM.

We encourage you make these programs a part of your Sunday morning routines. If you normally attend the 8:30 worship service, plan to watch the *FBC Sunday Morning Worship Experience* at 8:30 and to participate in your Zoom Live Video GrowGroup Meeting from 9:50 to 10:30. If you normally attend the 11:00 worship service, plan to participate in your Zoom Live Video GrowGroup Meeting from 9:50 to 10:30 and then watch the *FBC Sunday Morning Worship Experience* immediately afterwards.

Additionally, Wednesday Night GrowGroups and off-campus ConnectionGroups will use the ZOOM Live Video Meeting format. Your GrowGroup and ConnectionGroup leaders will send you invitations via email to participate in the meetings.

Please note that Laura Gulley has a separate electronic format already in place for our PowerKidz Hour and Children's Worship. Please contact her for more information (410) 442.5506.

We will continue to seek ways to foster connectivity in the weeks ahead. We are grateful for your support and encouragement. May God bless you as we are on this journey together.

Looking to Jesus,



Pastor Mark Massey – Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors John Hevey, Mark Klimovitz and Neville Johnson