

March 14, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

No doubt that you are aware of the impact of coronavirus COVID-19 upon our world today. We also know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that our Lord Jesus Christ is still on the throne and in sovereign control with perfect knowledge and wisdom of all that happens. As a result, we should not panic over the things of the world, “but seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:25-34).

As His church, it is prudent that we take precautions to exercise loving watchcare over one another during times of such distress. COVID-19 is a dangerous disease that has been declared a global pandemic. Its mortality rates, particularly among senior citizens, are grievously high. In light of this, First Baptist Church of Douglass will be making modifications to our services this Sunday, March 15; and we will be monitoring the situation closely as we move into the future.

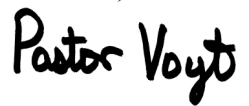
This Sunday, March 15, we will have Sunday School and Morning Worship Celebration at our regular times, 9:30am and 10:30am respectively. Please bear in mind the following, however:

- If you or a family member are sick or feel unsafe, please use discretion, and do not come!
- According to the CDC, “Starting at age 60, there is an increasing risk of disease and the risk increases with age. The highest risk of serious illness and death is in people older than 80 years. People with serious underlying health conditions also are more likely to develop serious outcomes including death. The people who are at greatest risk are those older and who also have serious long-term health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, or lung disease” (source: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/t0309-covid-19-update.html>). *If you are in a higher risk category, please do not feel that you need to physically come to church! You are loved, and we know you will unite with us spiritually, even while at home. We will look forward to the day when it is physically safe for you to join us again!*
- Please be mindful of appropriate social distance as you greet one another, and we specifically encourage you not to shake hands. According to the CDC, COVID-19 commonly spreads through respiratory droplets among contacts within some 6 feet. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>).
- Please wash your hands frequently, especially while at church! Soap and water is very effective against COVID-19.
- We will not be passing offering plates during the worship service. Instead, we will have collection plates/baskets available at the rear door of the sanctuary and on the Lord’s Supper table. Please give of your tithes and offerings before or after the service.

Also, while we are constantly monitoring the situation, it seems best at this time to announce a few schedule modifications due to COVID-19:

- FBCD’s first-quarter business meeting will be tentatively postponed to Sunday, April 5 at 5:00pm. Financial statements will be made available as they are produced.
- The 2020 Census Assistance scheduled to be open to the public on Sunday, March 29 is canceled.
- FBCD’s annual Palm Sunday Church Picnic scheduled for Sunday, April 5 is canceled.

Finally, let me exhort all of us to be in prayer regarding the effects of COVID-19. The Southern Baptist Convention and also President Donald Trump has called for Sunday, March 15 to be a Day of Prayer for the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Whether you attend services or stay at home, let us join our hearts together before the throne, seek His face, and pray. You can find a sheet with several prayer points from our SBC entities attached.

In Christ,

Pastor Voyt Lynn

Day of Prayer for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Global Pandemic

In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, we are asking all Southern Baptists and our 47,500+ churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to commit to a dedicated time of prayer this Sunday, March 15, 2020, to seek the Lord in unity about these matters:

1. Ask God, in His mercy, to stop this pandemic and save lives—not only in our communities but around the world, particularly in places that are unequipped medically to deal with the virus. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
2. Pray for President Donald Trump and other government leaders—international, federal, state, and local—to have the wisdom to direct us in the best courses of action for prevention and care. (Romans 13:1-4)
3. Scripture says—teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom in this moment of fear as the foundations of what we know are shaken, that others would realize how fragile life is and how real eternity is, and they would see their need to turn to God. (Psalms 90:12)
4. Ask God to protect our missionaries and their families around the globe, using this global crisis to advance His Good News to the whole world. (Mark 16:15)
5. Pray for those individual and families who either are or will be affected by this virus and for their healing.
6. Pray for doctors and medical professionals who are on the front lines caring for those who contract coronavirus.
7. Pray for medical researchers who are diligently working to create a vaccine for this virus.
8. Pray for the church to respond with thoughtfulness, wisdom, and love.
9. Pray for the continued advance of the gospel even as this trying moment unfolds.