



A Difficult Time...

I am 66 years old. I remember the Kennedy Assassination followed by Martin Luther King, the first Moon landing, the Challenger Explosion, the 90-91 Gulf War and then of course 9/11. We can now add the Corona Virus Pandemic to the list of dates we will never forget.

This has been a trying time as our churches wrestle with whether to hold public services or to suspend in person services and go online. Many of our pastors met this past Tuesday evening to discuss this situation. There were some who planned to continue with public services and some who planned to go to an online format using applications like facebook/live. That was Tuesday and a lot has happened in the last 3 days.

The first confirmed case in our state was March 5. The number of cases began to climb over the next days but relatively slowly. That has changed since Wednesday. Tuesday, when the pastors met there were 73 cases in TN. Wednesday, 98 cases and yesterday that number had climbed to 154 cases. As of the time of this writing on Friday the number of cases has jumped to 228! That is a 50% increase per day since Wednesday.

This is why this morning Governor Bill Lee again asked churches to consider going online and suspending services as normal. Governor Lee's stated, "Churches that continue to meet and gather with elderly and putting groups of ppl in the same setting, quite frankly they're risking people's lives," said Lee. "And there are ways to worship and there are ways to serve without congregating people."

I am fully cognizant that churches are autonomous but I also want to plead with you, the greatest demographic in most of our churches is also the demographic at greatest risk if they contract the virus. This age group, over 60 years old, is also the group that will come to church if the doors are open.

I am praying for every pastor as they wrestle with these very difficult decisions. Two verses immediately came to my mind when this all started. The first, from our current Sunday School series in 1 Peter. Chapter 1 verse 6-7, "You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more

valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” We rejoice in this great salvation through faith in Jesus Christ yet still must endure trials. Trials which may result in praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ!

The second verse has been one of my favorite verse for a very long time. Psalms 20:7 says, “Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” This is a time to remember the name of the Lord our God and place our trust fully in Him.

Below I am providing a list of event cancellations as well as the most up to date information I have on churches in our association.

Blessings to all...God is good and He is faithful,

Paul

Cancelled

Association, Regional and State Bible Drills

New Home Baptist Church Benefit Auction will be moved back to August

I have tried to keep track of churches posting on Facebook with their schedules. You can see those by going here, <https://www.facebook.com/Salem-Baptist-Association-Liberty-TN-558877680969415/>

CHURCHES:

Auburn, 11 am service this Sunday then suspend until April 12

Calvary, 11 am service on Facebook live

Dowelltown, services will be posted on Facebook

Elizabeth Chapel, 10 am on Facebook live

Indian Creek, 11 am service only

First Baptist Smithville, services will be on Facebook live www.smithvillefbc.org/live

First Baptist Woodbury, will do a service for WBRY (107.1 FM, 1540 AM) and to live stream on Facebook at 10:30 AM Sunday

Malones Chapel, regular Sunday am service

Mt Zion, normal Sunday am service

Plainview, 10:30 am Drive In Worship in church parking lot

Pleasant View, all services as normal

Salem, 11 am service on Facebook live

Shiloh, 11 am service

Upper Helton, 11 am service on Facebook live

West Main, 11 am service only



DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOLS
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AREA CHURCHES
FREE MEALS FOR STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

ANY CHILD 18 & UNDER MAY COME TO THE FOLLOWING SITES DURING THE SCHOOL CLOSURE TO RECEIVE MEALS.

CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE MEALS

THERE ARE TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO RECEIVE MEALS

MONDAY MARCH 23RD 10:30 AM - 12 NOON
 SMITHVILLE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER
 LIBERTY: DEKALB WEST SCHOOL
 CHILDREN MAY PICK UP A BOX OF FOOD ITEMS FOR THE WEEK OF SPRING BREAK

STARTING MARCH 30TH, 2020
 MONDAYS & THURSDAYS 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON
 SMITHVILLE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER
 LIBERTY: DEKALB WEST SCHOOL
 CHILDREN MAY PICK UP SCHOOL MEALS AND ADDITIONAL FOOD SUPPLIES

- ON MONDAYS, CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE 3 DAYS WORTH OF MEALS.
- ON THURSDAYS, CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE 2 DAYS WORTH OF MEALS.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS PART OF THE BACKPACK PROGRAM. THEY WILL RECEIVE THOSE SUPPLIES ON THURSDAY)

MEALS WILL BE SERVED IN A "DRIVE THROUGH" STYLE.
 PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR AND FOLLOW TRAFFIC DIRECTIONS AT EACH SITE.

MEALS MUST BE TAKEN HOME AND SHOULD BE REFRIGERATED UNTIL EATEN

QUESTIONS: 615.215.2104

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

To learn more call Pastor Chad Ramsey, First Baptist Smithville, Pastor Jason Lohorn, Salem Baptist Church or David Revelle at Upper Helton Baptist Church

HOPE CENTER: The decision has been made to close the Hope Center to both clients and for donations during this crisis. If there is an emergency need for clothes or furniture please contact me at one of the numbers below.