Bible Baptist Church of Sodus

Covid-19 Update 03192020

Dear Church Family,

In an effort to participate in our whole society’s efforts to squelch the COVID 19 outbreak quickly, we (Pastoral Staff and Deacon Board) have made the difficult decision to cancel our services this coming Sunday (March 22nd) until further notice, and starting today (3/19) all church events and ministries are cancelled until further notice.

We want you to know that this is not a decision made out of fear, out of panic, or out of lack of faith, but was made after seeking counsel from our church Board, all while monitoring the recommendations from our civic leaders and healthcare professionals. Ultimately, we felt that this is the prudent thing to do for our church family.

While the value of meeting together regularly as a body of believers is a biblical one that we look forward to resuming again soon, we recognize that we are blessed to be a multigenerational church. And because of that, we are taking into consideration all of those in our church family who have been categorized as being at the highest risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19.

We have identified some essential information that needs to be communicated to you our church family. This first update will most likely be the longest one in content, but each section is important for you to read through.

As we navigate these unchartered waters as a church and God’s people in our culture, it is very fitting to begin this update with some words of spiritual encouragement and challenge.

**Look Up**

Psalm 121:1-2: *I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?*

*My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

* Spend more concerted time in God’s Word, especially focusing on His promises of care and His character traits like sovereignty and faithfulness.
* Use this time for teachable moments to lead your family to a clear focus on God during this crisis.
* Spend more concentrated time in prayer regarding our current situation.

*Pray that God will give the medical community a vaccine and effective treatments that will save lives and bring healing.*

*Pray for our government leaders, and other world leaders as they make tough decisions that impact all of us and the well-being of the nations.*

*Pray that the church would respond with compassion rather than fear.*

*Pray that God would redeem this crisis by revealing Himself in powerful ways, and bring many to faith.*

**Look In**

II Peter 3:18: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

* Take the time during this crisis to ask yourself what God wants to teach you about Himself and where He wants to take you on your faith journey.

*Examples: Fear to trust, worry to worship, panic to peace, despair to hope!*

**Look Out**

Galatians 6:10: *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

* Pay close attention to those who are at greatest risk.
* Keep in touch with your church friends, keep an eye on your neighbors, keep in touch with co-workers, have your child check in on their friends.
* Be ready as a church to help with needs that arise with our church family and our community.

*Update timeline*

Weekly updates will be sent by email, posted on our website and Facebook page by noon each Friday.

*Sermon & Worship Resources*

We know that no online platform can ever be a substitute for church. We are called to gather, and in an age of digital-only relationships, in-person interactions are all the more vital. But this is (hopefully) a once-in-a-century crisis, and these measures are temporary. We will make the best of the situation until we can meet together again and worship the God who brought us through even this.

Online Resources

By 9:30 am each Sunday there will be a video message by Pastor Jay posted on the church website (www.biblebc.org) and on our Facebook page. There will be a filled-in sermon guide included.

On our website you can access some of our favorite worship songs by clicking on the message tab and selecting the drop-down *Music We Love.* This will take you a sample of Spotify music. You will only be able to listen to short clips on our playlist until you create a free Spotify account. Once you have done this you will have access to our full playlist called *BBC Worship Songs* located on the left side of the Spotify page. This playlist can also be accessed by setting up Spotify on your mobile device.

Other Resources

For those in our church family without online access, here are some message and worship resources.

For messages, you could tune in on Sunday mornings to one of the Christian radio stations listed below or watch a message on TV (Charles Stanley is a safe choice!).

For worship, you could play some of your own worship music you have on hand (CD’s or maybe even cassette tapes). You can also tune in to one of the many good Christian radio stations listed below. Frequency numbers are not listed since they can change based on where you live.

* Family Life, K-Love, Mars Hill Network, The Word (Calvary Chapel)

*Church Care*

Your pastors are mindful of the concerns, unknowns, and intimidating factors that the virus has created. We are here to provide pastoral care, but we are also thankful for the help put in place to allow as many church people as possible to be cared for during these difficult times.

Prior to the virus outbreak we already had a Care Ministry in place. Each member and regular attendee have been assigned a Care Group Leader. Your leader will be attempting this week to contact you and touch base to see how you are doing. If for some reason this contact is not made or you would like to know who your Care Group leader is, please contact the church office next week.

If you have a church-related care need, financial need, or emergency that arises please contact the church office. If no answers, press (0) to leave your message and we will get back to you. Messages will be checked daily.

If you have a medical emergency, please follow the CDC guidelines for contacting your health care provider or call 911.

*Community Care*

During these unsettling and disruptive times, we want to be a source of light, hope, and help in our community.

We have made personal contact with Nelson Kise the superintendent of Sodus Schools and have offered our church as a resource for volunteers and assistance.

If you know of other community leaders that would be looking for assistance, please direct them to contact our church office.

*Giving*

While many aspects of “normal” church operations are being modified during this time we would encourage you to keep giving faithfully to the church as we continue to have operating expenses and missions work to support. We will be exercising even more focused fiscal stewardship during these uncertain days.

We will access our Benevolence Fund as care needs arise and seek to meet them as much as possible.

Here are three ways to continue to give.

1. Give by mail. Send your offering to the church address. Please make sure to identify on your check where you would like the funds designated. i.e. General Fund, Missions
2. Online Giving: You can contribute online by going to the church website and following the instructions after clicking on *Give* on the upper section of the load page. There are fees charged to the church associated with online giving.
3. Bill Payer: You can contact your bank and set up giving through bill payer and there are no fees associated with this type of giving.

On The Journey With You,

Pastor Jay, Pastor Rex, Deacon Board