

An Update from Cowan First Baptist Church
March 24, 2020

Dear Church Family,

I wanted to give you an update on the ongoing situation that is the coronavirus, especially as it relates to our church family. We are aware through the Tennessee Department of Health and local authorities that at least two people in Franklin County have become ill from COVID-19. Our thoughts and prayers are for these individuals and their families.

Through Executive Order 17, Governor Lee has prohibited gatherings of 10 people or more. This prohibition currently ends at midnight, April 6. To ensure this prohibition applied to churches, we contacted Scott Smith, Franklin County EMA Director, and he confirmed the prohibition did, in fact, apply to churches. Additionally, Mark Puckett, Director of Missions, Duck River Baptist Association, confirmed the association's understanding was the same as our EMA.

Because of these developments, and the overall escalation of our community and nation's task in dealing with COVID-19, we will be gathering to worship **only online for Sunday, March 29 and Sunday April 5.**

Please join our live worship service at 10:25 a.m. this Sunday online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CowanFirstBC>

Shortly thereafter, the service will be available for replay on the church web site and on the church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMAvPWxp7yNar5A3amlKrYQ>

You may also access the YouTube site by simply going to YouTube home and enter a search for Cowan FBC.

We have not planned any meetings or ministry gatherings at CFBC through at least April 6. At that time, we will update our planning going forth based upon guidance issued by state and local authorities.

Even though we will be separated by space, we don't have to be isolated in spirit. Please know that you are not alone, and that we care about you. We will continue to pray, study God's Word, share His message, and give (either by mailing to the church or stopping by to drop off).

CFBC will respond to the needs of our church family and our community using our God-given resources to meet needs of our community with other churches in the Cowan Ministerial Association. We will be resourceful and will best use those resources which God has placed in our hands. We plan to be proactive as needs and opportunities are discovered to minister to and care for the people we love and serve.

Our leadership wants to place your safety above all other concerns, while we do not forget to acknowledge God and petition him on behalf of so many who need hope and healing in this moment.

None of us likes times like these, where circumstances are difficult, life is interrupted, and it is easy to give way to fear. But God will sustain us in this moment as we turn to Him. In all things, God is still at work. In this moment of history, what would happen if we turned to God in unceasing prayer for the answer to something that we cannot seem to solve on our own?

All of us know people who are affected by this crisis. We are called to be good neighbors, love our brothers and sisters, and pray for one another that we might be healed. Our prayers should not just include those suffering physically, but also the many doctors, nurses, health care providers, governmental leaders and so many more that are working day and night to help all of us.

God is for you, we love you, and there is still sufficient grace in Christ to carry us through to a better day. Looking forward to seeing you online this Sunday morning at 10:25 a.m.

“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all” (Romans 1:8).

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Pastor, CFBC