



First Baptist Church Blowing Rock

a place to believe...a place to belong...a place to become

March 17, 2020

Church Family and Friends

I just wanted to give you some important and updated information about our response as a church to the COVID -19 pandemic that is impacting our world, our nation, our community, and our church. In accordance with state and local guidelines and advice, we have cancelled all church activities at First Baptist Blowing Rock for the foreseeable future. This is to include all our small group Bible studies, Life-groups, Wednesday night classes, ministry team meetings and other activities that meet at the church. At this time, this does not include our weekday Child Development Center that continues to operate under the guidance and advice of their regulatory agencies. That may change in the future as we continue to monitor those recommendations and strive to keep the safety of our staff and students at the forefront.

Although we are cancelling our live in-person activities, we are excited that we have an opportunity to continue to gather with one another for worship each Sunday through our online worship services. While we all may be in our separate homes, we can still gather with our families and worship as one faith community. You can access our services through our Facebook page, the church APP, or our church website <http://firstbaptistblowingrock.com>. If you have a "Smart TV" that allows you to search the internet, you can pull up our services and watch them that way. Each new service will be broadcast live on Sunday mornings at 10:00 but you can also access any service at any time after the "live" broadcast. Our staff is working this week to help you create an atmosphere of worship for your family during these times and we will be sending out worship guides that will include the song list with words for each song we will be singing as well as scriptural references and sermon helps. We hope to also include the words to our worship songs on the video feed to allow for more interactive worship. Our prayer is that each Sunday during this disruption, whether you are by yourself or with family, you are able to have a worshipful experience and create a "Holy" environment.

Our goal is that we, as a church, can stay connected digitally during this season where we can't be connected physically. Our church office remains open, and if you know of anyone who is in need of assistance with groceries, food, medical care, etc. – please let us know as we have a team of church members ready to help. I know we are entering into "uncharted" territory and we plan to adapt and adjust as needed so that we can continue to minister to our community. But we also know that God is in control and I encourage you to continue to embrace the hope we have in Jesus Christ and join me in praying for our community and church.

First Baptist, I love you and I am praying daily for each one of you and I look forward to worshipping with you online this weekend. Please let us know if we can do anything for you or if you need help finding us online. God bless you and continue to proclaim and minister Hope to those who are filled with helplessness and fear during the days ahead. Psalms 46

Pastor Rusty