



# *An Update On the Coronavirus*

MARCH 16, 2020

## **PASTORAL PERSPECTIVES**

We live in times of great uncertainty and fear. The novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has fueled anxiety across our nation and world, and followers of Jesus are not immune. We feel compassion for those who already suffer. We sense our frailty and mortality.

Yet, we serve a God who is sovereign and cares for each one of us, and these are times in which His people can most vividly demonstrate our trust in Him.

Jesus gives us words of encouragement, *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful” (John 14:27).*

History has shown that, in times of great uncertainty and calamity, God’s people remain a beacon of peace, hope, and compassion to a fearful world.

- This is a time to strengthen our walk with God in prayer.
- This is a time for families to read the promises of God’s Word together.
- This is a time to communicate with one another in the church family to pray, care and encourage.
- This is a time to serve others in need such as delivering food to elderly neighbors.
- This is a time, as you walk the neighborhood in the fresh air, to pray for each home you pass interceding for the families.
- This is a time to share the Good News of hope in Christ.

One recent article from Christianity Today reminds us of what is most important in such times: trust God, pray, care for the sick, stay informed and make plans. “In these anxious

days, the Church can shine as a light of hope, care, faith, patience and prudence, demonstrating for the world how our faith provides true assurance against worry and fear.”

*May that be true of us in this time.*

## CHURCH RESPONSE & PLANS

Our pastors and elders are meeting regularly to coordinate our responses in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak. We are making decisions with the best of intentions and based upon the most up-to-date information we have. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Faith is temporarily suspending **ALL** on-campus ministry gatherings which take place beginning today for two weeks, **March 17<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> including Sunday mornings.** We will reassess the situation and update you each Friday on [www.faithcrossroads.org](http://www.faithcrossroads.org) and the Faith Baptist Church Facebook page regarding church plans after that date.

Faith will be presenting worship services ONLINE ONLY March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> rather than on our church campus. This will be available on Faith Baptist Church Facebook homepage which is available to everyone. And, at [www.faithcrossroads.org](http://www.faithcrossroads.org). For those interested in continuing small groups in an online setting, we would can help you get set up.

We are doing so because of our love for you and concern for everyone’s wellbeing. We are also concerned for our testimony showing care for our community, especially our health care workers. We want to honor the directives of public health officials as we seize the opportunities that this challenging situation offers God’s people.

## OUR PARTICIPATION

Our church elders, pastors and staff will continue to serve you in the coming weeks. The church office may be contacted Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please know how much we care for you as we walk this path together. We will continue to communicate with you electronically along the way. Please contact us if you have any needs or concerns. Send prayer requests to [office@faithcrossroads.org](mailto:office@faithcrossroads.org). We will continue to publish our weekly e-prayer and e-news.

Our mission to multiply devoted followers of Jesus among our neighbors and to the nations continues. In light of that, our ongoing financial support of these ministries and our obligations as a church continue. We ask you to consider giving online. Please take advantage of online giving portal [www.faithcrossroads.org/give/](http://www.faithcrossroads.org/give/). Gifts can also be mailed to Faith Baptist Church, attention Financial Secretary, 11 Glenridge Road, Rexford, NY 12148.

*We thank you in advance for financially supporting our church during this time.*

## *Let's begin with prayer . . .*

“Lord, we love you and thank you for your loving care through all our trials in life. Our hope is in you. You are sovereign over the course of our lives. Thank you for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and comfort.

We pray for health workers with the additional weight of responsibility. We pray for researchers as they seek effective treatments and a cure.

We pray for those in government leadership who make difficult decisions for the well-being of our communities, state and nation.

We pray for wisdom for the leaders of our church as they make decisions for the future.

We pray for seniors and others who are vulnerable during this time and for opportunities to serve.

We need your wisdom in how we serve others during this time of need.

We pray for families whose lives are disrupted by school closings. They have so many concerns regarding the care for their children.

We pray for the lost who are without hope in this uncertain world.

In the name of Jesus, the one who loves us, died for us, rose again, reigns above, intercedes for us and is coming again, Amen.”

Goodness of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0FBb6hnwTo>

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be terrified,  
do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”  
(Joshua 1:9).*

*In Christ's Service and Yours,*

*Your Pastors and Elders*