

March 18, 2020

Dear Church Family,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing you for four reasons. The first reason is to encourage you that God is our refuge and strength (Psalm 46). He is with us and He is working all things for the good of those that love Him (Romans 8:28). We also know that even in the midst of trials of various kinds that God is at work in us to make us more like Jesus (James 1). In the midst of the uncertainty, let us cling to God and walk by faith and not by fear.

The second reason I am writing you is to provide you with ways that you can communicate with me and our church family if you have prayer requests or needs that we can help meet. The deacons and I want to ensure that you have what you need spiritually, physically, and financially during this unique time. Please do not hesitate to contact us and let us know if you are in need of prayer or have another need that we can help meet. We are the body of Christ and we have the privilege of being connected to one another through Him. We are here to serve you! Here are some ways you can communicate:

- ❖ The church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30am-3pm. During these office hours, you can call our administrative assistant, Jocelyn Owens, and share your prayer requests or needs. She will then relay the information to the appropriate person. If no one answers the phone or if you are calling outside of office hours, you can leave a message and someone will get back in touch with you as soon as possible. The church office number is 706.736.8446.
- ❖ Another way to communicate to the church is through email. You can email me at [rjones@thehillbaptist.com](mailto:rjones@thehillbaptist.com) or the church office at [office@thehillbaptist.com](mailto:office@thehillbaptist.com).
- ❖ You can also communicate through social media. You can send a direct message through our Facebook page or Instagram page.
- ❖ Finally, you can communicate by calling my cell phone. My cell phone number is 706.945.7619.

The third reason I am writing you is to share how you can stay updated regarding our church worship services. The deacons and I are closely monitoring the state of our city regarding the spread of the virus. We have canceled all Wednesday evening activities until further notice. If possible, we desire to preserve our Sunday morning worship service at 11 am. We will monitor the situation throughout the week

and we will make an official announcement each Saturday at noon. The announcement will be made through email, our website, and social media. If you do not have access to these methods of communication then please contact me, your deacon, or another church member on Saturday to receive the announcement.

The fourth reason I am writing you is to give you some direction about what to do when you attend the worship service during the spread of the coronavirus. First, if you or your child is sick, please stay home. Our mission is to love people and you are not loving people when you spread your sickness. If you are sick and would like to receive an audio of the worship service, please contact the church office, and we will be glad to provide one for you. Second, the doors will be propped open as you enter and leave the service. Please try to refrain from touching the doors. Third, sit at least three feet from the closest non-family member during the service. Fourth, the offering plates will be placed at the front of the Sanctuary and in the vestibule. You will have an opportunity to give your offering as you leave the service. I want to encourage you to continue your giving to the mission of the church. If you're unable to attend the worship service, I encourage you to mail your offering to the church office. Fifth, when greeting those around you, please wave but do not shake hands. Sixth, we will have hand sanitizer available for you to use as you enter the Sanctuary. However, our supply is low. If you have hand sanitizer that you would like to give to the church, please bring it by the church office this week or you can bring it with you on Sunday. Seventh, if you are in the high-risk category with regard to this virus, it would be wise for you to remain quarantined in your home. Even with the precautions that we are implementing, there is no way to completely eliminate the possibility of coming in contact with the virus. Again, we can make an audio CD of the worship service available to you. If you would like one, please let the church office know and we will send you one.

This is truly a unique time for our country, our city, and our church. Although many things are canceled, the mission of God has not been canceled or postponed. As we navigate this season together, let us keep our focus on loving God, loving people, and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

*Pastor Ron Jones*