



WE EXIST TO MAKE MORE & BETTER DISCIPLES

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March 18, 2020

Dear SCBC Members,

In light of the developing COVID-19 or coronavirus situation, your Elders have been praying, assessing the information, and discussing the best way to proceed. We know this is a trying time for the church family, and being isolated from relatives, friends, and church family has been a hard reality. We are praying for you, for God's sustaining grace and for the peace that only our Savior can give (Jn 14:27).

We want the chief motivation for our decisions to be obedience to the Great Commandment: love of God and love of neighbor (Mk 12:31). We want to be led by wisdom, not panic or fear. We know God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and self-control (2 Tim 1:7). And we remember that God's people are instructed not to neglect meeting together (Heb 10:25).

As far as it lies within our power, we want to contribute to the good of all in our community, with a special concern for those within our church body (Gal 6:10). We're mindful of the need to "flatten the curve" so as not to overwhelm our health care system, and the priority of protecting those among us at higher risk for serious complications. We want our actions to reflect humility, not a cavalier attitude toward potential risk. Proverbs 22:3 says, "The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." Love of neighbor means we never want to see our actions contribute to unnecessary death or serious illness, simply because we refused to heed wise counsel or learn from the examples of others. We are closely monitoring the various government recommendations and guidelines, and seeking to cooperate with them, trusting that God uses the governing authorities for good (Rom 13:4).

With all these considerations in view, we are suspending Sunday services and all other activities and meetings at the SCBC facility, through the end of March. In the next couple weeks we'll be able to see how things progress at the local level and decide when we can again physically gather as a congregation.

However, even though there will be no gatherings at our SCBC building for the remainder of the month, we want to put to good use all the tools and technology we have at our disposal, by God's providence.

- On Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, March 29, at 10:30 AM, a time of worship in song and Pastor Brent's sermon will be livestreamed on our website <https://www.southcanyonbaptist.org/livestream/>
- Life Group Leaders will be advised via email that Sundays are a key time that we encourage every group to make an effort to connect, either by:
 1. Meeting in smaller gatherings with those families and individuals that are willing and able, to participate in the livestream and have time afterward for fellowship, sermon discussion and prayer (the church will help facilitate these gatherings as needed). As always, it's important to assess the people in your group, whether there are risk factors for certain individuals or families. Anyone who feels sick or with sick kids should stay home and not host others. Use wisdom.
 2. Connecting via a platform like Google Hangouts, FaceTime or WebEx. Bring everyone together on a group video call after the livestream concludes, for a time of sermon discussion and prayer. This way there can still be meaningful conversation, prayer and personal connection.
 3. Doing a hybrid. Groups that meet together can still use video chat to connect with those unable to be physically present.
- Our deacons will be reaching out to those in the church who might be in need of help with shopping or other basic necessities. If you are at high risk or have been advised not to leave home, and you don't hear from anyone, please reach out to the church office (605-342-9000 or office@southcanyonbaptist.org). If you know of another member in need, contact the office and let us know.
- In regard to giving, a substantial portion of SCBC's weekly giving historically has occurred in-person during Sunday morning services. As an example, our weekly average giving had been \$13,000/week year to date, but last Sunday fell to a little over \$4000. During this time, please transition to giving via our secure website at <https://www.southcanyonbaptist.org/#online-giving/>. It is a simple process and will allow SCBC to continue meeting expense obligations which will continue even though we cannot meet these next two Sundays. Also note that processing fees for online giving are negligible (\$0.25) if done through your checking account.
- One new, easy way to stay connected is by joining the **SCBC Facebook Group** (search for "SCBC Facebook Group" and request to join). As it's a private group, everyone can share prayer requests and needs. Pastors and staff will share updates, post video messages, recommended resources, and links to the livestream. The Sunday Lifeclass Women's Bible Study through 2 Corinthians will continue as an online study on Sunday mornings, so Kimi and Melodye will post a link on the SCBC Facebook Group for women to join the teaching time.
- Everyone is looking for streaming options while stuck at home, so we highly encourage everyone to take advantage of the great resources for kids, students and adults on [RightNow Media](#). This streaming service is available for the SCBC family free of charge, and includes studies by Francis Chan and Paul Tripp, animated Bible stories,

Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith, The Slugs and Bugs Show, VeggieTales, and much, much more. If you still need to set up an account, [click here](#).

In the next couple weeks, we will prayerfully assess where things stand and decide what comes next. We eagerly look forward to reuniting all together for worship. We do not make any of these decisions lightly, and our motive is not that of fear, but of love. As one pastor recently shared, “It hurts us not to have services. We make those decisions knowing it will cost us, because we love people and are called to put people’s best interests over our own.” Please be diligent to stay connected with each other and care for one another, and let’s all be dedicated to pray for our country, the world, and especially the spread of the Gospel, our only true source of hope and safety.

In Christ,

The Elder Board of South Canyon Baptist Church