



Where a warm welcome...

ABINGDON

...is just the beginning

Baptist Church

March 20, 2020

Congregation Abingdon Baptist Church
361 West Main Street
Abingdon, VA. 24210

Dear Congregation,

We are sure that everyone is aware of the current worldwide conundrum that we have that is known as (COVID-19) or the Coronavirus. This is something that no one alive today has ever seen or dealt with in any way. The governments of the world are attacking this virus in any way that is possible.

Our government has set forth guidelines for gatherings of people that would be of no more than ten people in a group at any one gathering. They have also suggested that no group gather unless it is essential for the benefit of health and wellbeing. That is why you are seeing restaurants, shops, and other businesses close or only offer drive through or curbside service to customers. Our schools, K-12, are closed for the remainder of the school year and our colleges are not holding in room classes. They have gone online and will continue that for the near future.

This brings us to our current worship services and programs at Abingdon Baptist. In order to comply with the current gathering guidelines to try and prevent the spread of this virus we have had to suspend our normal Sunday morning Sunday school and our Worship service in the sanctuary. Also the Sunday night service and the Wednesday night service and children's programs have been suspended.

We hope and pray that this ends soon but all predictions say that it may be 8 to 12 weeks or longer.

As you know, on Sunday March 15, we livestreamed the worship service with Pastor Bill preaching and Parke leading music. There was a small group of people in attendance but that will be the last time to gather in the sanctuary for a while. On Sunday March 22 we again livestreamed the service. The deacons have approved the purchase of some camera equipment that will enhance our livestreaming to you so you can enjoy the worship experience on Sunday morning. (Since that meeting an individual has come forward and fully funded this camera installation, so, no money will be expended from our treasury for this project.) This will be installed in about 30 days. In the meantime the service will livestream like last Sunday. We hope to post Wednesday night service and children's programs also. Check our website or the Abingdon Baptist Facebook page.

This brings us to our appeal to you for your continued support of Abingdon Baptist. Even though we are worshipping differently, for the duration of this virus, our expenses continue to go on. We still have to pay for the heat/ac, lights, water and sewer, the general upkeep of our facility and our personnel. We are not meeting on Sunday morning and other times so you do not have the opportunity to drop your offering in the collection plate.

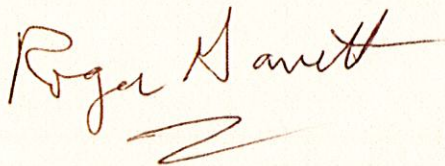
We are suggesting a way for everyone to continue to give your tithes and offerings. There is a way that you can give online. Go to abingdonbaptist.org and you can see the information about our church, and, in the upper right there will be an arrow taking you to the information for giving online. You can also mail it to Abingdon Baptist Church at 361 West Main Street Abingdon, VA. 24210 or, you can call the church office (276-628-8126) and tell Trina that, your offering is ready and Pastor Bill, Parke, Roger, Jim, Nadine, Shelia Willis, Irene, Tony or someone we may designate will come by and pick it up. We will do this in a way as not to invade your personal space in keeping with the instructions for personal space restrictions during this crisis.

Either one of these plans will allow you to give and also allow us to pay our expenses as we continue to serve and worship God here at Abingdon Baptist.

If there are any questions please call the church office to give us a message or call one of the above and we will do our very best to answer your question in a way that is satisfactory to you.

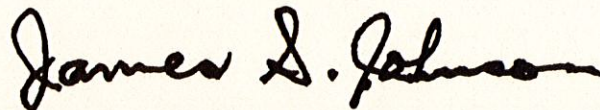
May God bless you, and keep you and yours safe, as we go together into this crisis.

Roger Garrett



Chairman Finance Committee

James S Johnson



Treasurer Abingdon Baptist Church

Committee Members:

Nadine Culberson

Irene Meade

Shelia Willis

Tony Roberts