

## RFBC Coronavirus/COVID-10 Update

**Praises be unto God for all the good things He hath done!**

I personally want to thank each of you for your prayers and concerns for our nation, state, county, faith communities and families across this nation that are challenged and affected with the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Over the last week or so, we have continually been bombarded with one news update after another.

However, with all the tension, anxiety and unrest that we are exposed to, the questions and concerns continue to loom relative to various directives ordered by local, state, and national leaders.

Even as we approach this coming Sunday of worship, we still have questions and concerns. However, the word of God and the Holy Spirit encourages us to be good stewards of ourselves and all those that are around us.

As your shepherd, I also want to encourage each member and family to exercise caution and maintenance of ourselves and each other during these very crucial times.

Therefore, we must take into account that this virus is not a friend to our wellbeing or the wellbeing of others.

Each American citizen must reassess their normal trend of activities and readapt, reposition, rethink, refocus and transition into this new normal until we get beyond this Pandemic. The goal of this change is not just for the good of ourselves but for the good of all. **We All Must Behave As If We Have The Virus.**

We must do all we can to flatten the statistical curve by sheltering in place and staying at home especially if you are sick or immunocompromised! Because no one knows if they have the virus unless they have been tested and therefore should limit themselves from the engagement and contact with others.

We are practicing Social Distancing by maintaining a distance of six-feet between ourselves and other persons. No hugging or fist bumping, however elbow bumping or just waving, or speaking will be appropriate at this time.

We must continue to practice excellent hygiene, by washing our hands and faces using the 20 second rule, sanitizing all touch surfaces, in our homes, cars, offices or places of work, pumping gas, entering doors etc.

**Uncertainty should not lead to inaction!**

On Monday, we had a group of youth to show up at our facility wanting to play basketball because they were out of school and needed something to do. Good idea, right? No! In any other situation the answer would be yes, but with the present climate we could not allow access to the facility. If one of them was infected with the virus they could pass it on to the others through the various surfaces (i.e. bodies, basketballs, perspiration etc.) they have in common and then returning to their homes and possibly contaminating others.

Young people, we all have a God given and societal responsibility to protect ourselves in order to avoid getting infected and passing it on to other family members and friends; **this virus does not**

**just affect the elderly and the young.** Four out of five people who get this virus get it from people who did not know they had it!

How do we deal with uncertainty? Be as certain as possible by making things as sterile as possible!

Therefore, because of the request of the CDC we are going to adapt to the following schedule and directives to curtail the growth of COVID-19.

#### **Effective Immediately:**

- There will be no Sunday School classes on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; however, classes will be available via Phone, Skype or Zoom on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Watch for app for updates.
- Sunday Worship services will be limited to assigned staff, musicians, singing units, audio visual, associate ministers, deacons, ushers, health care, safety and security.
- All other members/worshippers are requested to watch our LIVE STREAM service through the RFBC App, and Facebook live via your smart phone, tablet, or computer. Persons are encouraged to give on-line through our app, website or mail your gifts to the church. (Do not send cash). Our goal is to have 50 persons or less on our campus and in our facilities until further notice.
- Wednesdays 10:00AM, 7:00PM Prayer Vigil, Bible Studies and 6:00PM teachers meeting will be held via technology (Phones, Skype, Zoom, Face Time, etc.). Watch your app for updates.
- All in person meetings are cancelled and should be scheduled via phone conferencing or other technologies. These conferences should be scheduled through the Administrative Assistant, Sis. Miranda Holman, using an assigned free conference call number. (There should be no in person meetings).
- All mid-week, or regularly scheduled meetings, activities and rehearsals are cancelled until further notice.
- Full time staff will be onsite from the hours of 9:00am to 4:00PM Monday -Thursday. (No Visitors please unless necessary).
- As often as possible check on each other.
- Activate your Reedy Fork Baptist Church email as this will help us to keep you engaged with and through technology.
- We will send out messages and updates via the app, emails, text, and phone conferencing to keep you engaged and in the know.

#### **Finally, let's continue to Practice:**

- Washing hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (some experts recommend singing "Happy Birthday" twice to get to 20 seconds... I suggest you say a 20-second prayer for double protection). If you don't have access to soap and water, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Keep at least 6 feet from anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Use a different way to greet people rather than shaking hands or hugging.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your clothes, in the bend of the elbow or with tissue when you cough or sneeze.

- Seek medical attention if you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Call in advance before going to see your health care provider. Stay home if you have these symptoms to avoid infecting others.
- Stay informed about the latest developments about COVID-19 and follow the advice of public health authorities.
- Let's not panic! Instead let's pray together for God's protection and guidance.

Praise God for this modern age in which there are so many ways to stay connected in the faith when we need it.

Praise God for the miracle of modern science and discoveries, all of which are inspired by God to be uncovered at the right time!

God can use any method, vehicle, or means He deems necessary to address our every need.

The Coronavirus pandemic did not catch Him off guard. If you're wondering what to pray about while you're staying home from church, work, and school, pray for deliverance from the spirit of fear, in Jesus' name!

The opposite of fear isn't faith—it's *love*, "and so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love," and there is no fear in love. (1 John 4:16-18)

So, naturally, the enemy wants to keep people trapped in fear and panic about the Coronavirus, and everything else, so they can't rest in the peace and knowledge of the love of God. Let us remain focused!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Simmons