



Monday Morning Missive

Good morning, church family. I don't know about you, but I'm exhausted. Not physically. I am exhausted emotionally because of the constant bombardment of COVID-19 news. At times like this, I always turn to Scripture.

Today, our Bible reading was Deuteronomy 29 and 30. I would encourage you to take time to read those two chapters, and throw in a little Isaiah 40:31. And if that doesn't get your motor started, go online and listen to the choir special from yesterday. Talk about amazing!

Let me start off with some great news. Our numbers here at the church were down a little as was expected, but our online numbers were amazing. We had 59 watching live through our

LiveStream Broadcast and 13 watched the recorded version. But on FaceBook, we have had 291 views of yesterday's worship services. Folks, people are looking for answers in the midst of this chaos, and we need to make sure we are there for them. That's why I am committed to stay the course that I laid out for you yesterday. Please know that I am going to be communicating with our church leaders today, and we will evaluate those plans in light of the latest recommendations from our federal agencies. But know this: I consider the gathering of the church a necessity, and I am committed to making that possible for whomever can gather. However, let me be clear. If you are immuno-compromised and extra-susceptible to the virus due to other underlying medical issues, **STAY HOME! You aren't going to get brownie points for risking your health or the health of others. You can watch online and do ministry from your house. But if you are strong and able-bodied, we need**

you – not just for worship but to help us minister to the community and demonstrate the love of God during this chaotic time.

Over the next several weeks, some of you are going to need help running errands, getting groceries and medications, etc. Please call the church office and let us know. We have people who have already volunteered to do exactly those kinds of things. If your neighbors need help, let us know. We have been asked to help with food distribution at the school for those students whose only good meals are the breakfast and lunch they receive at school. It will probably be a matter of handing bags to people as they drive up, so if you can help let me know. If you would like to join our list of volunteers for running errands for our people, let me know that, too. You can call the church office or send me an e-mail. If you told me yesterday that you are available, send me a text or an e-mail to remind me of what you

were volunteering for. I want our church to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Just a reminder of our schedule. Keep in mind that everything is subject to some changes. Wednesday night, we will meet for prayer in the fellowship hall at 6 p.m. There will be fixin's for sandwiches at no cost. We will be able to spread out, and I promise not to keep you too long. There will be no other activities that night. We will meet for worship on Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m. as usual, but there will be no nursery or children's church. We will be staying in the Sanctuary to avoid any enclosed spaces. Sunday School will also be in the Sanctuary, and I am looking for a Sunday School teacher who will be willing to teach the lesson. We will be broadcasting our worship services and our Sunday School for those who will be staying home. And as I said this morning, we will continue to have bills to pay as well as our staff, so don't forget to give. You

can give online, and we will be glad to help you set that up, or you can mail it to us.

Folks, know that I am praying for you, and if you need anything, please let me know. If you have ideas for ministry, please share them. I read a post from a local bar asking people to get together to talk about ways they can help. If they can do that, surely, we can, too.

**Love you all,
Bro. Ben**

**Dr. Ben Hayes,
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church Dadeville**
bhayes@fbcdadeville.com
