

Antioch Baptist Church
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Updated March 23, 2020

RE: Antioch Baptist Church, Bristol VA COVID-19 Coronavirus Response

Dear friends and church family,

In this letter we want to share with you our church's plans during this pandemic.

First and foremost, we know that our God is in control and He loves us deeply. We believe He is accomplishing many goods out of this difficult time. We have firm trust in Him and will continue to follow Him by faith in love.

Jesus loves you, and we love you too! Just because our church gathering is altered does not mean the church is closed or that ministry has ceased. We will be doing things differently for a while, but we still wish to minister to you and your family any way we can. As always, we are here to minister to your spiritual needs anytime.

Service Schedule

For Sunday, March 29, we will temporarily cancel our Sunday school and Sunday evening services. We will have a live video service on Facebook at 11:00am on Sunday mornings. We will share a link from our Facebook video through our texting system for those who would like to watch but do not have Facebook.

We also plan a Wednesday evening phone conference call prayer service at 7:00pm on Wednesday, March 25. Simply dial 339-207-6600 from any phone at 7:00pm to connect with our prayer service conference call. Please be patient with us as we attempt this new method to reach all our church family at once.

Since the response to this virus is changing rapidly, we may need to make some future changes. We will communicate those to you through our calling system, Facebook, and website.

On-going Ministry

Throughout each week, we have many platforms to share the Word. We will continue ministering through our calling and texting system, website, social media, Monday through Saturday radio broadcasts, audio sermons, YouTube Bible studies, missions, and more. We are prayerfully considering some unique outreaches to our community during this season of interruption. We may not be serving in our usual roles right now, but we can still serve the Lord in a variety of ways.

What Can We Do?

A church is so much more than just the building it meets in. A church is the body of believers who follow the head, Jesus Christ! Our local body of believers can use this season for spiritual growth and service in many areas. Here are a few suggestions to use this time wisely:

Pray:

Would you consider joining us each morning and evening in special prayer for this pandemic? Here's a prayer list for you to consider:

Pray for our country, the victims and their loved ones, our healthcare workers and their families, our federal, state, and local government leaders, our first responders, our President and his task force, our churches, our schools, and so much more. Pray God gives our leaders stamina, spiritual direction, His wisdom, and good counsel. Pray for many families who are struggling financially due to loss of jobs or hours at work. Pray for our missionaries. Pray for those who are stranded and displaced by the travel restrictions and college closings. Pray for those you know who are not right with God. Pray God turns the hearts of many people to Him through this. Pray that God receives maximum glory from every angle of this, so that when we look back in hindsight, we will all see there is a God in heaven! There is no limit to how you can pray and draw closer to the Lord during this time.

Grow:

Keep reading the Bible and learning more about God every day. Read it not to fill your head with facts; rather, ask God how you can live according to the passage you're studying. Think about His Word throughout your day. Understand how it applies to your life. Find some verses you can memorize during this time. God will transform your mind and your life the more you dwell in His word.

Serve:

This is a unique season to minister in a variety of different ways. Check on those most vulnerable, such as your elderly neighbors, family, and church family through phone calls. Offer to help run errands for them. Look for new ways you can be a blessing to others at this time.

Go:

As we approach Easter on April 12, may we be great ambassadors for Jesus! We serve a risen Savior who loves us and gave Himself for us! Many folks are filled with fear and anxiety right now. Let's use our social media and other communication methods to point them to the One who is the Prince of Peace and our Burden Bearer! Show the world that Jesus really does make a difference in our lives!

Give:

Even while we cannot gather in person as usual, the ministry, outreaches, and bills of the church are ongoing. We appreciate your faithful giving during this time to support the ongoing ministry of the church. You can give securely through our website anytime. We also check the

mail each day if you wish to mail in your tithes and offerings. You can also drop it off at the church or preschool office during the week.

We love you and are here for you anytime!

All for Christ!

Bro. Brad Davis & Bro. Josh Davis

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