



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Good morning, church family. What a way to start the day! It's cold, wet, and ice is falling, so be careful when you go outside today.**

**God has been so very good to us at First Baptist Church. During this pandemic, you have been faithful to attend, to watch online, to give your tithes and offerings, and to do the work of the ministry. There is one particular man that has blessed my heart so many times because of his willingness to go and do when the need arises. I will not mention his name because I don't want to take away his blessing and I know that he wouldn't want me to praise him publicly, but he is the epitome of a servant of the Lord. I hope you know I'm talking about you.**

**On that note, there are lots of people who are still struggling with the Covid-19 virus, and all the experts are saying that the numbers are going to continue to rise. Throughout this entire pandemic, we have had many people who have been serving other and many others who are willing to serve. Please let us do it. If you have the virus, let us know, and let us help you. If you don't have the virus and are still not going out to the grocery store, we can help you, too, but only if you let us know you need the help. Every day we have people telling us that they are willing to run errands, buy groceries, and do whatever is necessary to minister. That is one of the many great things about our church family.**

**There is nothing more special than when we gather together as that church family, and I cannot wait until we can do that again. You cannot imagine how difficult it is to preach to a camera or to sing in an almost empty sanctuary, but sometimes we have to make the sacrifices for the greater good. If the greatest love we can show is**

**to lay down our lives for our friends, sometimes we have to give up those things that mean so much to us in order to demonstrate that same love to those who are in need. That's why the Leadership Team has decided that we will continue with ONLINE ONLY worship and Sunday School until February 7. We will constantly evaluate the circumstances and if the situation improves drastically, we may start back before then. Or if it continues to deteriorate, we may extend our online only services. We are doing this for the good of our church family and our community because we know that every time we gather, there are people in attendance who are vulnerable to the virus and others who have been exposed to the virus. The last thing we want to do is to be the place where the two meet. I know that some of you feel strongly about this – just keep in mind that there are those who feel strongly both ways. That's why we need your prayer as we make these decisions.**

**In the meantime, please know that your church**

**staff is here for you. We are making phone calls to as many of our members as possible to let you know we love you and are praying for you. We want you to tell us how you are doing and what you need from us. And I promise you, if humanly possible, we will do it!**

**I love you all!**

**Bro. Ben**