



FIRST BAPTIST MOUNT OLIVE

DR. DENNIS R. ATWOOD, PASTOR

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P.O. Box 239
MOUNT OLIVE, NC 28365

March 18, 2020

Dear Church Family:

I never imagined that I would be writing a letter to you about a worldwide pandemic affecting Mount Olive and First Baptist Church. But this ongoing event has dramatically impacted every single one of us and will continue to do so for many months to come. This is uncharted territory and the directives for us change daily. So, I realize these words may be somewhat inaccurate by the time you receive this letter, but here some important things to remember:

- Church office hours will be Monday – Thursday 10AM-3:00PM for the remainder of March. Our scheduling decisions will be based on the latest information we have from federal, state, and local authorities, as well ongoing conversations with Dr. Kevin Talton. We will communicate updates through our church website www.fbcmountolive.org, Facebook page, email, and phone tree messaging.
- **All church gatherings, worship, meetings and activities are cancelled until at least Palm Sunday, April 5.** (We realize this date may likely be extended.)
- Meanwhile, our worship service will be available each Sunday morning via Facebook Live and added to our website on Monday morning. This service is closed to the public and led by our staff and praise team. The service will begin on our First Baptist Facebook page at 10:45 a.m. <https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-105161549550852/>
- For those in our congregation who are elderly or have an underlying medical condition, we encourage you to stay home until the virus has passed and contact the church staff if you have a need. (Have a family member set up via Facebook Live for you on Sunday!)
- If you have a pastoral care need please contact me (919.738.3942) or Rev. Worley (828.781.9008), the church office, or one of our deacons. Visitation is not advisable at this point, but we can connect and pray for one another via phone or other media.
- *Please continue to be faithful in your giving as you are able.* This crisis will pass! We will be ready to adapt and continue moving boldly forward on our mission if we are faithful in our stewardship! You can mail your offering, drop it off by the office, or contribute securely online at: <https://fbcmountolive.org/give-online/>

All future church activities will be re-evaluated in two weeks and we will abide by whatever mandates are handed down from the federal and state level regarding mass gathering numbers. Please pray for our world, our nation, and our church during this unprecedented time. May we always be faithful to our God who is always faithful to us.

Peace from Your Pastor,

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." —Psalm 46:10-11