



March 14, 2020

Dear church family,

As our nation is facing a worldwide pandemic due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), we too must consider our responsibility in protecting the well-being of our First Baptist Leonard family. Our desire as a church is to continue to be a place of refuge, support, and encouragement especially in times such as these. While the threat of the virus spreading is real and must be monitored, we should continue to live as normal of lives as possible. However, we should be smart and incorporate the [suggested steps from the Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#). As President Trump said in his address to the nation, “For all Americans, it is essential that everyone take extra precautions and practice good hygiene. Each of us has a role to play in defeating this virus. Wash your hands, clean often-used surfaces, cover your face and mouth if you sneeze or cough, and most of all, if you are sick or not feeling well, stay home.”

The Texas Department of State Health Services has recorded a total of 51 cases of COVID-19, but none have appeared or been confirmed in Fannin County. We want to encourage you to not panic or fear. Our sovereign God is and will continue to be on His throne. Consider the words of the Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV).

In order to assist with ceasing the spread of the virus as well as alleviating fear, we will be implementing the following:

- Sunday Morning – We will not have our Sunday School hour, but we will still meet for worship at 10:45 in our auditorium. The service will be broadcast on our website, [www.fbcltx.org](http://www.fbcltx.org). If you are experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19, please stay home to avoid potentially spreading it to someone else. We will be in prayer for you, and our staff will be available via phone for encouragement and support. As you join us for worship, please do what we have all been taught in order to prevent the spread of any disease such as washing hands, refraining from unnecessary contact with other (i.e.-handshakes, hugs, etc.), covering your mouth/nose when you sneeze or cough, etc.
- Sunday Evening – Service on our main campus is to be determined. Those attending Financial Peace University will continue to meet as it is a much smaller group that meets in a home.
- Monday-Thursday – Our church office will be closed to members and outside visitors, but our staff will be in the office and available via phone. If you need anything at all, please contact the church office at 903.587.2250.
- Wednesday Evening Activities – To be determined. As of now, they will continue as scheduled.
- SBTC Disaster Relief Unit Director Training – This event will continue as scheduled.

We look forward to the end of this pandemic, and we will continue to monitor all aspects of the situation.

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
The Staff of First Baptist Leonard

Chad Leutwyler  
Senior Pastor

Dewey Watson  
Associate Pastor

Chad Rowell  
Associate Pastor

Tim Price  
Music Minister

Glenda Watson  
Children's Minister