

RIVERVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

.....Our message Christ, our mission others.

(COVID-19 "Corona virus "UPDATE # 4)

April 28, 2020

Dear Riverview Church Family,

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As the days become weeks and the weeks slip into double digits it becomes increasingly difficult to write these statements to you. In the past two weeks since my last statement, I have attended several webinar links at the state level, consulted with local authorities, actively monitored official reports, and spoken with our church leadership. All this activity has been in direct reference with the (COVID-19) virus and the possibility of re-opening of our Church for Worship services. I have attached this link for you to listen to at your leisure https://youtu.be/nzdqNIKksFE. This link contains an official presentation presented by Dr. Linda Bell (South Carolina State Epidemiologist) and she answers specific questions submitted by church leaders across our State regarding the re-opening of churches for worship. I strongly encourage you to take the time to listen to it, because it is a very informative and dependable resource. In the past two weeks I have also considered several other creative options for our worship time. Unfortunately, I have not found one that is a fit for our congregation. I will continue to explore alternative ideas until hopefully, I find one. I assure you that it will be one that does not exclude any of our Church Family. In the mean time, I continue to lift each of you up daily in prayer. May I remind you that the church of Christ went through a similar challenge in the year 1918. It was the year of the "Spanish Flu" pandemic. This pandemic infected nearly 500 million people worldwide. In South Carolina alone there were 50,000 cases. For all practical purposes, it was much worse than what we are currently enduring. I mention this that we may not think that this is a new thing on planet earth and that our God has somehow lost control. Obviously, the Church and the people rebounded and life returned back to normal. They did this without the aid of modern science, technology, or current resources. The times we are living in have not been seen in our lifetime, but they are not totally unprecedented. Our forebears in the faith left a remarkable faithfulness and resiliency for us to copy. We are truly faced with many challenges and many changes in our families and lives. BUT, the Good News is, regardless of how this whole experience changes our lives, God is still on the throne, His Word is unchanging, His character is unassailable, and His promises are eternal.

As always, my sincere motive is, has, and always will be the safety and wellbeing of our beloved membership and guests here at Riverview Baptist Church. The following list is an update on the proactive steps we are continuing to take here at Riverview.

- 1. All church services are cancelled until further notice. (This includes Sunday AM, and PM services, Wednesday evening services and all currently scheduled meetings).
- 2. Easter Sunrise service, Easter Worship Service, and the collection of our annual Consolidated Missions offering will be observed the first Sunday that we are able to gather once again.
- 4. Scheduled meetings will be re-scheduled for a later date and these changes will be posted in the church Bulletin once we are able to resume regular services.

The Lord willing, we will resume our regular schedule of services soon. I strongly encourage everyone to be in prayer for one another, our churches, and our nation. I miss you all and pray that we will be together soon!

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime at <u>riverviewbcb@embarqmail.com</u> or 843-812-0978. I am always available to serve and to assist you in any way. Thank you for your cooperation and may God continue to richly bless you in the fullness of His grace.

In Christ Jesus, **Sem D Weadows** Leon D. Meadows / Pastor