



First Baptist Church of Aledo
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May 21, 2020

Dear Church Family,

We've been holding our breath... but it's time to breathe. Every week we keep hoping that things will change so we can announce when the church will reopen for public worship. Here is what we know and what we are considering:

- The entire world has responded to the Covid crisis with various levels of restrictive measures, including the United States.
- While many states have begun to open up and reduce restrictive measures, Illinois has not.
- Some churches are beginning to announce public gatherings in spite of the executive orders.
- Legally speaking, the church was never obligated to close its doors. Rather, churches across the country did so out of respect for the governing authority, and the health and safety of our communities.
- Local authorities have confirmed that they will not enforce nor prosecute violations of the executive order. However, the Governor is able to use the State Police to do so if he so chooses.
- Our Church Council is meeting next week to discuss and decide if FBC can and should resume public worship services, and if so, how to do so responsibly and respectfully.

So, with all that said, how are we doing? It has been a difficult season in many ways for all of us. Life as we knew it was put on hold, and many things we dearly love have been postponed, not the least of which is church life. As you know, our church has been doing everything we can possibly think of to continue to minister to people in our community while being mindful of the restrictions we all face.

Thankfully, our church is alive, well and strong. Engagement with virtual opportunities has been very high through Facebook, our website, and the radio. People have been tremendously generous and extremely encouraging. Donations to help those in need through the Deacon Fund and the Blessing Box have been great. Support for our friends in El Salvador continue. And the regular tithes and offerings given through all the on-line options as well as physically mailed to the church office have been wonderful. The staff and a small group of volunteers have been working tirelessly and it's inspiring to see how much concern and compassion people have for one another.

In the meantime, here are some ways to stay involved:

Small Groups

Beginning in June we will have small group opportunities for fellowship and Bible study. Various times and days are available. You can go to our website to see the full list. Registrations are first come first serve, so sign up for the group you want because class sizes are limited to 10.

White Flag Initiative

Our friends in El Salvador are in more need than ever. We recently learned that hunger is a growing problem. Families that are struggling with food shortages have begun placing white flags outside their homes to indicate they need food. If you'd like to help support the effort to provide food for those in need in El Salvador, please make a donation to FBC with El Salvador in the memo line of your check or envelope.

In Christ,

Pastor Luke

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Stay Connected!

- For all the details about our upcoming events and live streaming Visit FirstBaptistAledo.com.
- Listen to WRMJ 102.3 at 10:15am on the 1st-3rd Sundays & at 5:10pm on the 4th and 5th Sundays.
- Download our New Church App by texting *fbcaledo app* to 77977.
- Find Us On Facebook @ First Baptist Church of Aledo.
- Call the Church Office at 309.582.7812.
- E-mail us at fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net



Love Christ.

Love Others.

Think Biblically!