

Dear Juniata Baptist Church Family,

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. 2 Samuel 22:31

As concerns increase this week surrounding the coronavirus, Juniata Baptist Church is committed to doing whatever we can to provide a safe environment for you and your family.

While God has not given us a spirit of fear, he has called us to love our neighbors and to contribute to the welfare of our community. Exercising caution is not merely wise, but is a tangible way of expressing love toward others.

Our civil leaders requested that we reduce the size of our gathering. In light of their request and after much conversation and prayer about how to best love and serve our people and the surrounding community we have decided on the following course of action.

1. All Services will be online ONLY beginning this evening, Wednesday 18th

We encourage you to worship at home with your family. The reality is that in times like this we can be tempted to break out of our normal routines, but let's stay committed to worshiping together. In a time of uncertainty and fear, we can be a light of Gospel hope to one another.

Transitioning our worship services to online only was a difficult decision for us. And while we are saddened to not meet together in our church building, we have been guided by two principles, first honoring our governing officials, who have urged extreme caution. And secondly loving our neighbors, many of whom are particularly vulnerable. We understand the complications this causes some who do not have readily available internet or facebook access.

We are striving to make our services available on multiple platforms and will update you with information on where and how you may access our services.

Let's not forget that church is not a building, but a body of believers. We are a family and each one of us makes up the church. So as a church, we now have an opportunity to gather online to study the word of God, sing praise to our great God, and give towards God's ongoing work and mission in the world together! Praise God that through technology we have the capability to do this.

2. Continue to connect with one another in a variety of ways

We want to encourage meeting together but with wisdom and caution. Let's maintain our drive to meet with one another and to encourage one another throughout the week. This may be an opportunity for you to invite another church family to watch together. This might also be an opportunity for you to invite a neighbor or friend to watch the service with you as well. What a wonderful time to write a letter, make a phone call, or send an email. Let's edify one another through this time!

3. We encourage you to use online giving

Visit Juniatabaptist.org and select the PayPal link to give a one time gift. For those who are unable to give online please feel free to drop off giving at the church office or give through the mail. (Juniata Baptist Church 5656 Washburn Rd. Vassar, MI 48768)

4. Communication and Prayer

We are actively discussing the best ways to love both our community and our people in this time. We recognize that this is a fluid situation with constant new information and updates. While we do not know what will happen as this situation changes, we do know that we can, and must, pray. Please join us in prayer. Ask God, in His mercy, to stem the tide of this growing pandemic. Pray that those who are called to address this crisis would be equipped to handle new cases with wisdom and compassion. Pray that we as Juniata Baptist Church would lead the way in exhibiting a spirit of trust in God and love for others.

If we do not have updated email addresses or cell phone numbers for you please call or message us so that we can best stay in contact with you! We are planning to start a Daily Email that would contain updated prayer lists and encouragement from scripture.

If you have any questions about Juniata's procedures, you are welcome to talk directly with Pastor Del. You can contact him via email at mrterpenning@juniatachristian.org or call or text him via his cell phone 810-441-3224. Please keep Pastor informed of any prayer requests or needs that you or another member of our Juniata family might have.

In Christ Alone,
Pastor Del Terpenning