

WATSON BAPTIST CHURCH

WATSON BAPTIST CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

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Rev. John Pemberton, Pastor

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



Our Sunday Schedule

Men's Prayer Time	8:45 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:15 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal	5:00 p.m.
Children in Action	5:45 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday Schedule

Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal or	
Mixed Ensemble Rehearsal	5:30 p.m.
Children & Youth Gathering	6:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	6:00 p.m.

APRIL, 2020

May God bless you at Easter,
And keep you all year through.
May God give you all the faith it takes,
To make your dreams come true.
May His love and wisdom always help,
To guide you on your way.
May His light shine down upon you now,
To bless your Easter Day.

Easter
Blessings

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.



Wishing a Blessed Easter to everyone. Even though, we may not have a physical service on Easter Sunday, we can still rejoice in the meaning of Easter and be thankful that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and no matter what hardships comes our way, that Jesus is always with us. Keep the Faith, Love and Trust in the Lord.

Dear church,

I sincerely hope that all is well with each and every one of you. You are greatly missed! Coming into our church sanctuary this past Sunday morning, I went up to the altar and I prayed. I prayed for our church family, prayed for our community. Prayed for the service. And I was very sad while praying because I knew I would be preaching to an all but empty building. Please know that when I've been preaching, I've been imagining your faces filling the pew seats.

I sent out an email a couple of weeks ago that these are unprecedented times we are living in. I can't think of an instance where the whole world just grounded to a halt like this. It's like we are living out the plot of a science fiction movie. Not even during World War II did the majority of people in our country have to radically change their behavior patterns, close down businesses, and stop meeting in public gatherings. It's crazy that our own worst enemy right now is being together. I can't think of a time ever where the state of Texas issued a travel restriction on people driving from Louisiana. So if you are like me, then you are probably glued to the news, watching press conferences, waiting on updates. By now, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted 150 countries across the world. As of this week our own nation has the highest number of deaths. Just as sad, our own state of Louisiana is has the highest number of cases of infected people per capita. The question is "What should our response to this event be?"

I think that reminding ourselves that God is on the throne needs to be our daily starting point. There are a lot of unknowns... like "when will the virus peak and the infection curve will flatten out?" "When can we get back to work, or the kids get back to school?" "When can churches meet again?" I'm asking those questions a few times each day. I have no idea what will happen next week or the next day. The good news is that the one thing I know with certainty is that the Lord rules and He reigns. And He is Lord over today and tomorrow, and ten thousand tomorrows. And He is the kind of King who will be with His people no matter what. Psalms says, **"The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all"** (Psalm 103:19). It also says **"Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite"** (147:5). And of course there's that wonderful verse, **"though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me"** (23:4).

What this means is that God is still God. It means He still rules in perfect power with all His kingdom authority. And it also means, that in his infinite wisdom and perfect knowledge, this virus did not take God by surprise. So, while the Lord may not have spared mankind, including His church, from going through this pandemic event, we can be sure that He is powerful enough and wise enough, and that He loves us enough to see us through it. So a small suggestion for you: I recommend digging into the book of Psalms each morning and reading a chapter that praises God for who He is. Take time to remind yourself that the God you serve is an amazing God.

Of course, our much-needed response to this event is prayer. And while we may not be able to meet to pray in the presence of other believers (I miss Wednesday night prayer meetings), we can still give ourselves over to intercessory prayer from our homes. I led our church in a time of prayer earlier in the month of March, and all the people and things I prayed over, those are things you and I still need to be taking to God on bended knees. Here are some people and things to pray for:

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- 1) Pray that God would be gracious and merciful. Ask that He would bring an end to this pandemic and save lives. Not just for people in Louisiana and in America, but across the globe.
- 2) Pray for wisdom for our governments leaders: for the President and Vice-President and especially members of his virus task force; for our Congress as they strive to pass legislation; for our Governor as he makes difficult decisions, and for our local leadership in our Parish. God has placed these individuals in positions of authority, and in a time such as this, they need great wisdom.
- 3) Pray for mercy and strength for all our medical workers. We have a number of them in our own church family we care about. Please pray for those who continue to be on the front lines giving care in the hospitals. Also be in prayer for our pharmacists and techs, and all those who work in areas that might put them at higher risk.
- 4) Pray for the scientists, epidemiologists, and doctors working on treatments and a vaccine for this virus.

One last thing you can pray for: pray that even though this pandemic is bringing great suffering and loss, because our God is so great and so loving, that He could take this calamitous event and use it for good. All through the Bible we see God take something intended for evil, and providentially using it for the good. During a time like this, people can't help but start thinking about what really matters most, and how precious life is. They can't help but think about their own mortality and about their Creator. So you and I can pray that God would use this event to draw lost men and women to Himself.

At the same time, you and I can still share the Gospel. Its still mankind's greatest need, more so than even a virus vaccine. In fact, think about this... Imagine for a moment that you had the cure to the Coronavirus right now. You had it in your pocket. Wouldn't you share it? Like, if you had a bottle of pills that and just one pill could prevent the virus or cure it entirely, would you share those pills? I sure would. I'd be passing out those pills left and right to all the people I care about most, and I'd take them to a factory and have them make more and more pills. And I'd recruit eager volunteers to help distribute and share them across the world. And that would be wonderful, wouldn't it? But here's the thing.... If you are a believer and you know the Gospel message, then you have the cure to sin and death itself. Again, the Gospel, the message of Christ crucified for sinful men, it is still mankind's greatest need. And especially in a time like this, we can and must share it.

One last thing. I have had so many of our younger church members enthusiastically call and message me offering to run errands for some of our higher risk church members. If you, for instance, are at a higher risk for complications and do not feel comfortable going out, I have volunteers ready and willing to go pick up your groceries (you can shop online) or prescriptions. Also please continue to call or message the church with any prayer needs.

Press On,
Bro. John

Patty's Note:



Concern, worry, stress, apprehension, nervousness, fear, anxiety. I can still hear my mother say to me as a teen, why do you worry so much. She would say, stress will cause creasing on your forehead and nervousness will not help! She would always point out that birds don't worry, flowers don't worry or have fear and anxiety. I would take a deep breath, as she instructed then she would give me a kiss on the cheek and off I would go doing whatever I was doing.

Coronavirus (COVID-19), has caused all the above in my life as in yours. The root of all anxiety is fear. Fear of the unknown, future, and our

wellbeing. More than ever, we are in desperate need of calmness, confidence, and peace during the virus time.

David, writing in Psalm 27:1 "The **Lord** is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The **Lord** is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" By placing your trust in the Lord, you can take a deeper breath, smile bigger, and live without worry of what is to come. He is the one who knows the future, loves you, and can give you the strength you need for each need, each day. Instead of worry, trust in God's care. Looking forward to the Sunday morning we can stand and sing together in our church building.

Victory In Jesus!

Patty

Hey it's Matt!

Just wanted to give our students a heads up and let them know that on Sunday nights we will be meeting via Zoom. It's so important that we stay connected during this time of uncertainty.

Access Code is 905 198 0074

The meeting will go live at 6pm. Hope to see you then!

Matt



March Statistics

Receipts for Mar.

Budget Offering	\$ 30,755.82
Building Debt Retirement	150.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	945.00
Children's Camp	856.00
Youth Camp	<u>1,060.00</u>
Budget Receipts for March	\$ 33,716.82

Budget Receipts to date: \$ 85,614.28

Our church family has continued to be very generous with your contributions by dropping them off at the church, mailing to P O Box 675, Watson, LA 70786-0675 or by giving online @ watsonbaptist.com.

Due to the COVID-19 and Stay-at-Home order, I am not including Deacon, Security or Nursery Volunteers in the Newsletter or the monthly calendar since all services have been cancelled.

Judy



Wanted to let you know that while we have not had our midweek or Sunday evening services, I have been trying to do some ministry. I've been posting a video or two each week, called "Fun with Crafts." Some of you know I used to love doing art when I was a kid in school, and I figured since I can't be with people, I might as well paint or sculpt or do something with my bored mind and fingers. So I'm trying to incorporate my art with a devotional thought from Scripture. In the videos you will see me create (or at least try to create) some kind of art work and then at the end connect it with the Bible. Please note these messages are deliberately short and fairly simple for two reasons. First, I have learned that people will not watch an internet video that is too long (more than 9 or 10 minutes). We just don't have the attention span for that. I thought about doing a half hour or 45 minute Bible Study but in the end came to the decision not many would watch through it. We appreciate people watching our Sunday morning livestream once a week. Secondly, I kept it short and simple because I'm hoping to use these little messages to reach out to lost and unchurched individuals. You can simply google the word "q-tipalism" on your phone or computer, and click the youtube link. Click my name underneath to see a few more videos. Or just find me on Facebook. I hope they bring you a little joy.

Spring Greetings Church Family!!

I had planned to use some space in this month's newsletter to send a special **Thank You** to everyone involved in our Good News Club Ministry.



The volunteers that showed up at South Live Oak Elementary every week with willing hands and servant hearts, the families that provided the snacks for meetings and our generous congregation that made love offerings to buy supplies.

The Lord used each one of you to tell the great good news of salvation to over forty children and their families. Unfortunately, our school year was abruptly cut short by the COVID-19 virus and we have scrambled to find other ways to connect with and reach out to them and our community. Once again, our God has showed up and showed off friends! Our tech crew jumped into action giving us an opportunity to record and share video Bible lessons, songs and crafts. We have volunteers that are using their talents, time and energy to continue to minister to others daily. My last lesson for them was on 1 John 3:18- Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. I see this love in action every day here. I am humbled and beyond grateful to be a part of this amazing family at Watson Baptist Church. Please continue to pray for our three children's ministries, the families involved with them and our faithful volunteers.

Trina Delanoix