

BARCELONA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dr. Jon M. Stubblefield, Pastor March 24, 2020 Willard A. Zeiser, Associate Pastor

Dear Church Family:

"Ma" McWhorter was my Junior Department Director in Sunday School when I was a boy growing up at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville. I never knew her given name. All of us boys and girls affectionately called her "Ma." She was wise in her ways and taught us much about life. One of her favorite verses was Psalm 56:3, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." I committed this verse to memory, and it has seen me through troubling and uncertain times.

These are uncertain days for all of us. We are all afraid. Therefore, it is imperative that we trust in the Lord and pray. Jesus reminded us that we "ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). Let me suggest as a church family that we join our hearts in unified prayer at 9 o'clock each morning. There will be other times that you pray, but let us focus on this suggested time of prayer. The Lord will lead you in knowing how and what to pray.

We continue with the directive from our leaders that we not gather in groups but practice social distancing. Therefore, we will continue the pattern of no worship or church activities until further notice. I regret to announce that the Maundy Thursday Service will be cancelled. This is a disappointment for all of us, and especially for Duane Blakely and the choir.

Thank you for your continued financial support of the church. We received \$4,796.80 during the past week by mail and through the lock box on the back of our office building. The total budget giving for March is \$33,388.30 through four Sundays. We still have a fifth Sunday this month. Our budget calls for \$48,398.33 monthly. Our Counting Committee meets each Monday and will make deposits.

I know you miss the opportunity to gather as a congregation for worship. Psalm 84 begins, "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts" (verse 1). The Psalmist celebrates the joy of worship in the Lord's presence with God's people. Evidently, he has been away from the house of the Lord.

Since we cannot meet together, Willard Zeiser and I have taped a message that will appear on our web site. Go to <u>www.brbchsv.org</u> and follow the directions. The message will be available Friday, March 27.

Stay in, but stay in contact with others you love, including your church family.

Your Pastor,

Jon M. Stubblefield

BARCELONA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH-HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE By the Cross We Care, One Person at a Time