

*For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment. 2 Timothy 1:7*

Scotsdale Baptist Church Family,

As followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we do not operate out of fear as the world seems to be driven over the past week or two. God calls us to operate not out of fear but through His power, in His love and with sound judgment.

As most of you have likely already learned, the first case of coronavirus in El Paso was announced on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

While the experts are still learning about this virus there is much they do know. They have learned that this virus has a high transmission rate. It easily passes from one person to another. The mortality (death) rate increases with age and preexisting health condition.

The Center for Disease Control recommends several measures to reduce the spread of this virus. These include encouraging frequent hand washing, avoiding close contact, staying away from others if sick, covering coughs and sneezes, wearing a facemask if sick, and cleaning with disinfectants.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

Brothers and sisters, God is sovereign over all, including this virus. Without Him we should be fearful, but in His mighty power we have strength and are called to be His hands and feet. Let our love for our Lord and for one another drive us to move forward for His glory. We pray that He give us sound judgement as we navigate the coming storm.

Based upon the information available, the elders have met and determined that the wisest decision for our Church is that in lieu of our Sunday service this week Pastor Six will provide a message which can be seen Sunday at 10:30am on Facebook. Please join us for a message of encouragement and instruction from God's Word. Please go to the Scotsdale Baptist Church page of Facebook.

Sunday morning should you or anyone from our community desire prayer please come to the front of the worship center (Lockerbie entrance) between 10am and 11am, where our elders will be located.

Please use our on-line giving for your tithe and gifts at <http://sbcep.org/give/>. For those who prefer to donate by check you may either bring your check to the church office during the week or mail your check to the church.

Additionally, we are cancelling/postponed the following events, services for the next week

- Sunday afternoon activities
- Wednesday evening gatherings

- Spring Cleaning workday previously scheduled for next Saturday is postponed until further notice
- Committee meetings – Chairperson to use discretion, however should the need to meet exist, we encourage using a teleconference in lieu of person to person meeting
- As of today, we expect our church office to be open during regular business hours through the week and into the future.
- The elders will continue monitor the situation and inform the church regarding schedules and activities as needs dictate. We will use this same forum for communication moving forward.

Finally, President has proclaimed this Sunday as a national day of prayer. The Apostle Paul teaches us to pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17). God is truly sovereign so we ask that all remain in prayer. We pray that the Lord would use this current viral outbreak glorify His name. We pray that He will use His church – Scotsdale Baptist Church for such a time as this.

We ask that you care for your own family, that you call upon your neighbors and loved ones in love (1 John 3:16-18).

In Christ,

Elder Council