

Dear Congregation,

Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer and King. He, who purchased us with His blood, is our only comfort in life and in death.

Beloved, I pray you are well and, because our God is great and powerful, prospering even in these trying times. I pray your hearts are at peace. The Lord exhorts us, through Paul's pen, with these good words:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” - Philippians 4:4-9

Here are some things to keep in mind.

First, if you are in need of anything at all, call us. Call the church office [672.3364] or email [info@bapca.org]. The church office is open regular hours [9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.]. If you do not get an answer, please contact Ruling Elder Dave Finnegan [his information is on back page of the bulletin - as is the contact telephone number of all the officers]. Dave is coordinating our “corona care” ministry to you. Don't hesitate to contact any of us.

Second, we will continue to follow these decisions made by your officers:

- 1) Regularly scheduled worship services are canceled until further notice. An abbreviated Sunday service of worship will be recorded and will be available, DV, in the late afternoon.
- 2) All programs and activities are canceled through April.
- 3) Sunday School has been suspended through the end of April.
- 4) The Lord's Supper will not be celebrated in April.
- 5) Special services during the Easter season are canceled. This means that we will not celebrate a Good Friday service and we will not offer an Easter Breakfast on Resurrection Sunday, April 12th.

- 6) Sermons preached at BAPC will continue to be available later in the day on Sunday for downloading and listening. We will not be providing live streaming of the service for now. We may bring this up later.

Third, as you may have seen and heard in the video pastoral visit that has been put up online, I mentioned a good resource for your encouragement. It is a devotional book written in 1842 by James Smith (pastor of the New Park Street Chapel, 1841-1850; Charles Spurgeon succeeded Pastor Smith as minister of the congregation). The book is titled *The Believer's Companion in Seasons of Affliction and Trouble*. It is written in short devotional sections and it's good stuff for your soul. Here's the link at Grace Gems: <https://www.gracegems.org/Smith5/afflictions.htm>

Your Elders and Deacons pray that you will be wise and prudent during these uncertain times. We are at your service. We are praying for you. If you have specific prayer requests, call one of the elders or deacons and they will with and for you. They, in turn, will also pass along the request to the other officers.

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit... The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."

- Romans 15:13; 16:20b

For your Officers, I am,

Yours in the Love of our Souls,

Henry