

Dear Benton Church Family,

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” In these difficult days, as Coronavirus cautions increase, God’s people should be known by their love not by their fear. Let’s stay focused on our ever-present help with the certainty that He is in control of all creation and we are always under His good care.

As I am sure you are aware, we are now under a state of emergency across our province. Out of concern for the most vulnerable among us, and in deference to our elected leaders, the elders have made the following changes to our ministry schedule for the next two weeks. We will keep you informed of future changes, by email and on our website, as they develop.

- We strongly encourage everyone to **stay home on Sunday and worship with us online. Benton will be suspending all ministry activities at the church** for the next two weeks. The building will not be open. We will livestream the morning message on Sunday at: <https://www.bentonstreetbaptist.org/resources/audio/sermons/>
- Our staff will continue to serve in ministry, though we are implementing alternative work arrangements for the protection of our team. **The church office will not be open.** If you have a ministry need, please call the church office. Messages will be monitored throughout the day and various staff members will be in the church at various times throughout the week.
- All children’s ministry and youth ministry activities are cancelled. Holly has posted a number of videos for children who will be missing Bible Connection. They are fun and contain the instruction that your children would have received on Sunday morning. This link is good until next Monday (watch for the new one next week). <https://share.vidyard.com/watch/1KtgnrCDmdnWpPlnsdyETL?>
For PDF exercise sheets email Holly at Hdeboer@bentonstreetbaptist.org
Parents of our Youth should check for an email from Holly with an update for youth ministry for this week.
- We know that many of you wish to continue to support the many ministries of the church. **We encourage you to shift your giving to online giving** for the next few Sundays. Our ongoing ministries and staff are reliant upon your generosity, particularly during these times. Online giving can be sent by email to: giving@bentonstreetbaptist.org or through our website at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1166500>
- **All mid-week programming is suspended**, including AWANA, Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Community Group meetings, LIGHTS, Ladies Coffee Hour, Men’s Bible Study, Men’s Floor Hockey and the gentle exercise class.
- We would like to offer **help to those of our congregation who may need assistance during this pandemic.** For those who are at high risk of contracting the virus, or those unable to get out for basic necessities, we have volunteers who are willing to help. If you need assistance, please contact Angela Haines and she will co-ordinate a volunteer to help you. Cell:519-589-9206 or Email: Ahaines@bentonstreetbaptist.org
If you are able to volunteer by driving and picking up groceries, please let Angela know.

- Our **Annual Meeting is postponed** and will be rescheduled after the state of emergency has been lifted.

Let's remember to be a testimony to the grace and peace given by Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The church has been the hands and feet of Jesus through many difficult days in history. In a society that is uncertain and fearful, we have the opportunity to demonstrate the joy of living with complete trust in our great Saviour.

With continued joy and peace in Christ,

Your Benton Leadership Team.