



November 21, 2020

Clarkson Baptist Family & Friends,

We pray that you and your family are physically, mentally, and spiritually doing well. While it has been and continues to be a difficult season of life, let me encourage each one of us that our God has not abandoned us. **Isaiah 41:10, "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."** Before I continue with our update, it is important to be reminded and rely on God's promises. God's word is full of His promises to all of Humanity through Jesus the Christ. So, constantly be reminded of God's promises and hold on to His promises for each and everyone of us. As we keep His promises in mind, let me give you some updates from your leadership at Clarkson Baptist Church.

First, we have had two members of our Clarkson Baptist Family test positive this past week with CoVid-19. These individuals were in attendance at our worship service on Sunday, November 15, 2020 with no symptoms at that time. They did not attend Sunday school. They only attended the worship service. Both of these individuals are part of the same family. After talking at length with the family and the Grayson County Health Department, it has been determined that these positive cases have been isolated to their family due to following CDC guidelines that have been in place at church since May. These individuals did not catch the virus at Clarkson Baptist. These individuals were constantly wearing their masks and maintaining social distancing of 6 foot, not being in close proximity with someone at church for a total of 15 minutes or more, and sitting only with their family while maintaining a 6 foot distance from others in our sanctuary. While it is believed by our church leadership and our local Health Department that CoVid-19 was contained to these family members, there is still a small chance that it could have been passed on. If you have any questions, the Grayson County Health Department has encouraged anyone to give them a call. Their telephone number is (270) 259-3141. Clarkson Baptist Family & Friends, we encourage you to lift these individuals up in prayer as they are showing some symptoms of CoVid-19 but they are not severe.

Second, Governor Andy Brashear and his cabinet have been updating and giving new guidance and mandates to the people of Kentucky with the goal of reducing

the increasing number of CoVid cases that are taking place. While Governor Brashear has been giving specific mandates to different types of businesses, schools, and etc, he has not given a specific mandate to churches. Through answering a reporters question, he has given his request for churches to suspend in person services and go only online for the next three to four weeks. After much prayer and reflection, the leadership of Clarkson Baptist believe it is best to still offer both in person worship service and online worship service. Clarkson Baptist has been working hard to diligently follow CDC guidelines in all that we do to help keep one another safe.

Hebrews 10:19-25, “¹⁹ Therefore, brothers *and sisters*, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

While there are countless texts in the Bible that encourage us as believers to come together to worship, Hebrews 10:19-25 are texts that remind us of the importance of coming together to Worship our God and to encourage one another to remain faithful and live for our God. While we understand some may desire and need to stay home, we still believe it is necessary to offer a weekly opportunity to have a corporate worship service together in person and online. For those that stay home, we offer our weekly worship service through Facebook Live, @clarksonbaptist, at 10:30am; we do our best to add the worship service to our website www.clarksonbaptist.org by Tuesday each week; and we can deliver a DVD of the worship service upon request to the church. In addition, we will continue to offer Sunday school and our other weekly Bible studies and discipleship while still fulfilling CDC guidelines.

Third, we need to remind, encourage, and slightly modify our expectations for everyone who enter Clarkson Baptist Church. Everyone needs to continue wearing a mask. While we understand there are some that may not be able to wear a mask due to medical conditions, we do encourage others to wear their masks. If you cannot wear a mask, please take extra precautions for your sake and for others. In addition to wearing your mask, we need you to wear your mask the entire time you are in the facility. In the past, we offered the opportunity to remove your mask if you are sitting down, not singing, and still maintaining a six foot distance. Due to the increase of cases, we are encouraging everyone to keep their mask on while you are in the facility.

David, Taylor, Angela, and I will only remove our masks when we are on stage and a significant distance away from everyone. In addition, other teachers can remove their masks when teaching but we encourage you to be further than 6 foot away from those you are guiding and instructing. In addition to wearing masks, we encourage you to still maintain 6 foot distance and not come into close contact with someone. We have seating in our sanctuary that will help you and your family keep social distance from each other. In addition, wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds. Also, utilize hand sanitizer through out the building. If you are feeling ill and or displaying any symptoms relating to CoVid-19, please stay home, rest, and heal. Furthermore, our cleaning team is always working hard to effectively disinfect our church after each use.

In conclusion, we recognize that everyone is tired and frustrated. It is a tough time. Yet, it is also an opportunity. It is an opportunity to live faithful for our God by following The Great Commandment and the Great Commission in **Matthew 22:34-40** & **Matthew 28:18-20**. In the middle of these challenges, it is an opportunity to Love God, Love People, and Grow in Faith as we keep our focus on our God who loves us and others so very much.

God bless you.

Your brother in Christ,

Jason McCray

Pastor of Clarkson Baptist

in conjunction with Deacons, Trustees, and Strategic Planning Committee.