



Praying Thru the Pandemic

April 7, 2020

Dear FBC,

These days of physical distancing from you has created quite the challenge for this extrovert that loves you and loves being with you. No doubt. Many of you feel the same way while there are others that have welcomed the opportunity to have a mandated separation and the “working from home” causes your creative juices to new heights of invigoration. When we began the journey through Lent, I had no idea that I would have to give up meeting with you but like so many other people, I have found new ways of being connected to you and discovered a deeper connection with God. I find myself having to charge the battery of my cell phone more often than ever as I attempt to stay in touch with y'all and my times of prayer have become deeper and longer. Each day, I pray for the many people and situations on my private prayer list and the church list. Additionally, I began praying through our church family alphabetically by last names on April 1. I am praying for those of you whose last name begins with “F” today. Each day brings new names, faces, families and stories to mind. It is one of the ways I am keeping you in the forefront of my mind and God in the center of my life as together we walk this strange and difficult journey with Jesus as our Sustainer, Guide and Salvation.

The medical experts report that this will be the most difficult week our nation has faced. I hope you will join me as we pray:

Great Physician, we pray today, we focus especially for those fighting on the front lines of this pandemic — our first responders, nurses, doctors, and other health care professionals. Cause them to remain strong in their body, mind and spirit to save as many lives as they can with the onslaught of patients that are hospitalized already, and those on their way. Grant your healing mercies to those who are sick and will inevitably get sick despite their best efforts to protect themselves. Comfort as only you can, those people who have had, and will have loved ones to succumb to this deadly disease. Speak your wisdom and courage into our government officials and medical experts. Infuse generosity into souls like us to provide food for the hungry, friendship to the lonely. And, Good Shepherd, cause those of us not in the health care sector to do the most loving thing we can, to protect our parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors to lessen the severity of the effect this virus is having on all of us. Help us to stay at home and deepen our relationship with you and the other loved ones that live with us. We give you the praise and the glory for who you are and the way you live and love among us every day. Amen.

Hopeful!

Jim Everette
Chief of Staff