



Coronavirus

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

March 12, 2020

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Prov. 18:10).

Good evening Clifton Park:

Many areas of our public life are being interrupted by the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There are travel restrictions, entertainment events and venues are being canceled, along with closures of public schools and institutions of higher education. While the spread of the virus will certainly impact aspects of our church community, I am writing to appeal to you that we not allow it to interrupt our congregational life and commitments altogether. The Lord is still speaking and moving in our midst and no virus can stop that. There are two areas, in particular, I am asking for your attention and for which we need your support: worship and stewardship.

Sunday morning worship. Regardless of the situation, there is a way to remain connected to our Sunday morning worship experience and your presence is important. Currently, there is no plan to cancel any scheduled worship service due to the coronavirus. Having said that, each of us has to discern whether personal attendance is wise given our own personal situation. The consensus among the experts is that the coronavirus is a low risk to the majority of us. Still, we have also been advised that the elderly and persons with compromised immune systems might consider foregoing large gatherings for the time being. Additionally, those who are currently sick or experiencing cold-like symptoms should remain home. It is important to exercise good judgment.

Should any of you decide not to attend worship in person, we want you to know that your church family has you covered. Our 11 am worship service is live streamed each Sunday on the church's Facebook page and on our website at www.cpbc.net/services. In both of those locations, you find not only a live feed of the service, but a gathering of people who are praying, communicating, and connecting as the service goes on. Whether it is now or in the future, you never have to be without our fellowship on Sunday mornings.

Giving. The coronavirus has the potential to put a significant financial strain on our ministry. In this regard, we are no different than other organizations that rely on the regular contributions of patrons and membership.

We need you to continue your giving to Clifton Park. I have been so pleased to see the positive response from the congregation to start our year. It appears that many of us have made the commitment to be faithful in the area of financial stewardship in 2020. Do not allow anything to interrupt that commitment. Wouldn't it be an awesome testimony that our church actually emerged in a healthier financial position as a result of our giving during a global pandemic! God could make that happen through all of us. There are several ways to give. The options include:

- Online Giving – by visiting our [website](#) on your computer or mobile device you can access our [REALM Giving Portal](#) and schedule your contribution.
- Text to Give – Simply text the word *cpbc* and the amount to 73256 (ex. "cpbc 125" makes a contribution of \$125). The first time you use this option there is a short process of completing payment information.
- Bank Bill Pay – By contacting your bank directly, you can set up direct contributions to the ministry. You'll need the address of the church in order to do this: Clifton Park Baptist Church, 8818 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903.
- CashApp – We have responded to many of your requests to establish a CashApp account. The church's identifier is \$CPBC.
- Paper Check – Of course, we would be glad to receive paper checks if you'd prefer to send them by mail to: Clifton Park Baptist Church, 8818 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903.

The coronavirus situation has caused us as a ministry to evaluate our ability to maintain continuity of our programs and services during an unexpected event. We are very pleased to see that we have things in place that allow our mission to go forward in spite of the circumstances.

As you consider your participation in church membership, there are two things you can do to ensure that no matter what occurs, you'll still be fully connected to the ministry. First, create a profile on REALM, our communication platform. Click [here](#). Through Realm, we will be able to send you updates and the most current information about everything going on in the ministry. You will also have easy access to your brothers and sisters in the ministry. Second, please consider setting up reoccurring giving to the church. Through the various giving platforms mentioned above, you can establish automatic contributions that will be sent directly to the church at regular intervals (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, on a specific day each month, etc.). This can be canceled or modified at any time. Setting up a recurring contribution would go a long way in helping create financial stability in the ministry. This is true even as summer approaches and we all expect to resume our normal travel and scheduled activities.

It is a great time to be a member of Clifton Park Baptist Church. We are a gathering community that continues to come together in the name of Christ. On last night, I recorded a short video sharing a few thoughts about the moment we find ourselves in. You can access it below or click [here](#).



In short, we know that ultimately the Lord is in control of all things. And because of that, there is no need to fear. Instead, we will be responsible, exercise wise judgment and trust in the Lord. *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe* (Prov. 18:10).

We are Leading the way. Teaching the truth. Experiencing the life.

With love,
Pastor Lewis