

**UPDATED: APRIL 1, 2020**

**Dear Second Baptist Church family,**

Following the recommendations of our state and national governments, **Second Baptist Church has suspended its normal services and events** until current restrictions are lifted. We will, however, continue filming and offering Sunday morning services from home, and we will make that service as widely available as possible, even to those who may not have an Internet connection (see details below). We encourage all our members to continue in prayer for others, and to take precautions to stay safe themselves.

**This suspension will include:**

- All in-person service and events are suspended, at least for the month of April. After the stay-at-home lockdown concludes, we will continue to follow any further social-distancing guidelines, and will convey to the congregation any changes to the church's services or schedule.
- All office hours at the church are also suspended. If you need to contact the church for administrative purposes, please call Pastor Matt (454-3333) or our secretary, Gloria (454-0203). While mail will continue to be picked up from the church's mailbox, please understand that phone messages left at the church office may not be checked.

**We will continue to offer a Sunday morning service by online video during these weeks:**

- Every Sunday morning at 10:45, Pastor Matt and some praise team members will offer a worship service. Anyone with an Internet connection can watch along:
  - o To access the Sunday morning service, log on to [facebook.com/calaisbaptist](https://facebook.com/calaisbaptist), where the service will appear in the main feed as well as under the Videos page in the sidebar. (This is accessible even if you don't have a Facebook account. Go to [calaisbaptist.org](https://calaisbaptist.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page if you need more complete directions.)
  - o If you happen to miss the service at 10:45, you can still go back and watch it later. The videos will remain in the church's Facebook feed and are always accessible.
  - o Feel free to share these video services with others on Facebook, as there may be many folks out there who have to go without church during these weeks.

**But what if I don't have an Internet connection?**

- If you don't have the Internet but would still like to hear the Sunday service, please call Pastor Matt (454-3333) to be added to a list to receive audio CDs of the service. The sermon (and possibly the entire service) will be recorded and put onto CDs each week to be distributed (likely by mail) to anyone who signs up to receive them. Upon request, these CDs may also include Pastor Matt's midweek Bible study.

**Please remember to keep giving faithfully to the church and its work:**

- It is very easy for cancellations like this to develop into difficult financial seasons for churches. Our last few budget years have been very tight, and that was without any major periods of cancelled services. In addition to the simple joy of serving God by our giving, we also have continuing obligations to our church staff and their families, to ministries like the

Food Pantry and BYC, and to many other outreaches and concerns. If you are in a position to give generously, please prayerfully consider it. To give, use one of the following options:

- Online giving: Go to calaisbaptist.org, click the “Give” tab at the top of the page, and follow the simple instructions.
- Mail: You can mail your gifts in directly: 21 Church St., Calais, ME 04619

**Other ministries the church will continue to provide:**

- **Pastor Matt streams a midweek Bible study** on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM, focusing on Bible passages that deal with issues that arise in times of crisis and fear. These will appear in the church’s Facebook feed just like the morning services. (Upon request, these can also be made available to those receiving audio CDs).
- Please contact **the Prayer Chain** for any urgent prayer requests. Just call Pastor Matt (454-3333), or, if he is unavailable, Sharon Waycott (454-2384).
- Following national CDC guidelines, visitation to hospitals and nursing homes is being strongly discouraged. But **Pastor Matt will be in contact** with many of our members by phone on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
- Some Christians in other parts of the world have joined together in **praying for all those affected by the outbreak at 7 PM each day** (19:00 military time, to match the ‘19’ in the COVID-19 name). The pastor and his family posts a brief “call to prayer” video in the church’s Facebook feed every day at 7 PM.
- **Additional Holy Week services** will be posted as videos in the church Facebook feed:
  - **Maundy Thursday Passover-style service on April 9 at 7 PM**
  - **Good Friday classic liturgical service on April 10 at 3 PM**
  - **Easter Sunday “sunrise service” hymnsing and devotional on April 12 at 7 AM**
  - **Easter Sunday morning service on April 12 at 10:45 AM**

**What to do while you are in stay-at-home lockdown:**

- Remember to practice a daily devotional time of prayer and Bible study.
- Please feel free to make use of the vast collection of Christian video content that we have through RightNowMedia. (If you have an Internet connection, but haven’t gotten set up with RightNowMedia yet, please let Gloria know: 454-0203).
- Keep in touch with other church members by phone, online, or by writing cards.
- Keep praying—for those affected by the virus, for our medical professionals, for our neighbors, and for revival in our area. In this time of uncertainty, it is especially important that we let the light of Christ’s hope shine to all those around us.

**Grace and peace,  
Pastor Matt**