



To Our First Baptist Leonard family and community,

Our response as a staff, and my personal response as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Leonard, has been out of a responsibility to both our First Baptist family and our Leonard community. In the face of panic and fear, whether real or perceived as well as exaggerated or understated, the church has a responsibility to be sober-minded. We are to represent the sovereign God of the universe in all our speech and actions. In fact, it is through these actions we display the love of Christ and our trust in Him.

We want to show our membership who are more susceptible and vulnerable to this virus, as well as members of our community, love by not taking the chance of spreading and/or sharing this virus with them. We want to continue reminding everyone that life here on this earth is fragile and temporary, however, we have an awesome God who offers eternal life.

The actions we have taken as a staff were not overnight nor kneejerk reactions. Instead, with prayer and the leading of the Spirit, we have heeded the request of the authority placed over us here both at the Federal and State levels. We see both Paul and Peter speak concerning this type of submission (Romans 13:1ff & 1 Peter 2:13ff). Just as individual families submit to the husband/father and congregations to pastors, we see that followers of Christ are to likewise subject themselves to their own governmental leadership. Neither President Trump nor Governor Abbott have asked us to stop proclaiming God's Holy Word. However, they have asked us to help by doing things a little differently right now during this time of national testing.

We should praise God that we have the ability to still communicate and still meet, even if it is online. Remember, this is only for a time. Yes, we, like many in our First Baptist family, long for the day when we can once again come together in fellowship, exercising individual gifts as a corporate body for the edification of the assembly and glorification of a great and mighty God.

In the meantime, we will continue to submit to the authority our sovereign God has placed over us. We will continue as a church to be witnesses of the gospel. We want to show kindness to our neighbors and compassion to those in need or hurting. During this time our families have an opportunity to focus on what it means to be a family and even grow stronger together during this trial.

I am thankful for the support from both our church family and community which we have already received. The greatest support anyone can give to us, as we continue to seek the Lord's wisdom, is to pray. Even though we may have to practice some social distancing right now, a day is coming when we will gather once again.

In love of Christ,

Chad Leutwyler
Pastor

Chad Leutwyler
Senior Pastor

Dewey Watson
Associate Pastor

Chad Rowell
Associate Pastor

Tim Price
Music Minister

Glenda Watson
Children's Minister