

Ben Phillips, Pastor



FBC Murphy is a gospel-centered family of many cultures and generations that exists to Magnify Christ, Multiply Disciples, and Mobilize Missionaries

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www.fbcmurphy.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/benphillipsTEACHfaith>

 <https://twitter.com/TEACHfaithHome>

 <https://instagram.com/benphillipsteachfaith>

 <https://linkedin.com/in/benphillipsteachfaith>

Dear Church Family,

God is in control and we can put our hope and trust in a loving, merciful, eternal-life-giving God. There is much anxiety and fear in the midst of the Coronavirus COVID19 pandemic. God calls us believers to be wise, love our neighbors, submit to governing authorities, and fulfill His mission for our lives and our church.

CONNECT:

I want to encourage us during this season to love one another well. Call, text, email and stay in touch with one another even in the midst of social distancing. Look out and pray for the senior adults in our congregation and offer help as needed. I also want to encourage us to love our neighbors and serve them. Utilize this time for gospel conversations to offer hope and eternal life through a relationship with Jesus. Share your testimony and how a relationship with Jesus and God's Word has given you comfort and hope. If you have any specific needs, then please let us know.

PRAYER & WORD:

Many people have extra time on their hands. Utilize this season to be more fervent in your prayer time. Pray for family, church members, church leaders, leaders (national, state, local), health care workers, vulnerable populations. Call up people (family, friends, neighbors, church members) and ask how you can pray for them and then pray for them on the phone right then. It may feel awkward for you initially, but I guarantee it will be a blessing to those you pray with.

Instead of watching endless hours of TV or movies, consider reading your Bible more. Consider a goal of reading your Bible or a Christian book for an hour before you can watch an hour of TV. We have attached the Easter Bible reading guide so you can print and follow along or share with others. In addition to reading, spend some extra time memorizing Scripture. Who knows, you might just win a free roll of toilet paper for memorizing Scripture!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We will be having Sunday school this coming Sunday just not here at the church building in our normal groups. We encourage you to get up like you normally do on your Sunday morning routine and prepare for Sunday school and worship. However, you won't have to leave your home unless you choose to meet with another individual, couple, or family. We believe maintaining a semblance of your Sunday morning rhythm is vital for your continued spiritual growth. We will provide some resources via email and Facebook for children.

For adults and students, we will share a video via Facebook and/or a link to Youtube that will walk through the Personality Discovery session in our PLACE Booklets. **NOTE:** If you were not here this past Sunday and would like a PLACE Booklet to work through then you can pick one up at the church office Tuesday-Friday from 9am-2pm (call the office at 972-424-1818 to confirm someone is here before you get out). You can also email me ben@fbcmurphy.com or text me at 501-993-6378 and I or someone else will personally deliver one to you so you can be engaged during the video teaching segment.

WORSHIP:

We will be having Worship service this coming Sunday, just not here at the church building. We encourage you to get up like you normally do on your Sunday morning routine and prepare for Sunday school and worship. However, you won't have to leave your home unless you choose to meet with another individual, couple, or family. We believe maintaining a semblance of your Sunday morning rhythm is vital for your continued spiritual growth. We encourage you to sing out loud during the worship times and to open your Bible and take notes during the sermon times.

Our worship team is practicing like normal on Wednesday evenings and they will be here on Sunday morning to lead us in a time of worship that we will livestream on Facebook. This Sunday will involve our special prayer service that we normally do four times a year. This has been planned for several months well before we had any clue about what a Coronavirus was. How AWESOME that the first Sunday of this "temporary normal" Sunday service that we will focus on praying for revival and spiritual awakening. I will lead us in some specific prayer times between different worship songs. There will be people all around Murphy and perhaps all around the world in their homes via Facebook praying for revival and spiritual awakening along with us.

We will continue to publish a bulletin and make it available online in a pdf format so you can download and follow along. We will also be publishing a worship handout that will have all the words to the songs we will be singing on Sunday morning so that you can easily sing along with us.

OFFERING:

We will even have an offering time during the online worship service where we will encourage you to go to the church website www.fbcmurphy.com and worship through giving your tithes and offerings. If you are not comfortable giving online then you can drop off your normal tithe at the church office Tuesday-Friday, 9am-2pm or you can mail it to the church: 800 North Murphy Road, Murphy, TX 75094.

FUTURE SUNDAY GATHERINGS:

We will evaluate this on a week by week basis and make wise decisions. It is very likely that we will have to study together and worship together virtually online for the next several weeks. We are making plans that even on Easter, Sunday, April 12 we will likely not be able to have a worship service in our sanctuary. Please continue to pray about how we can reach people with the gospel in creative ways and continue to engage in community with one another in these unique times.

MEETINGS:

We are limiting any meetings at the church to under 10 people for now. This could change any moment and we are evaluating this week by week. Anyone who is sick, older, or immunocompromised we encourage to join meetings through a phone call or conference call.

QUESTIONS:

There are probably many questions that you have that have not been answered. If you have additional questions, then please call or email and we will respond to your needs and questions.