

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Unshakable Hope in a Shakable World: NBC Ministry During the Coronavirus

Dear Church Family,

It is unbelievable in some ways how quickly our world, our nation, and our community has changed just since we met on Sunday. Yet on the other hand, Jesus told us “in this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33b) Your NBC leadership is praying for you during this time, and we have been praying for a plan of ministry. We believe that the plan below will keep us ministering to each other and our community and world as a church during this unique time. Our prayer for you is that God will continue to use our church to push you towards our unshakable hope in a shakable world, and that we will continue to be a beacon of the hope God offers, even in ways we never could have foreseen.

“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.” (Psalm 62:5-6)

- Beginning this coming Sunday March 22 until further notice, we are not meeting as a church for Sunday worship out of love for neighbor and respect to governing authorities, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- **Until we are able to gather again, Pastor Tim will be giving brief announcements, praying, and preaching a sermon on Facebook Live.** *Please “like” our [NBC Facebook Page](#) by searching “Northshire Baptist Church” on your Facebook account. You can go to the [NBC Facebook page](#) and we will go live at 9:30 AM every Sunday. For those who don’t have Facebook or who don’t want to create an account, we will be embedding the FB Live video on our [NBC website](#) each Sunday Lord willing by 11:00 AM or earlier.*
- For now, we will be sending out some YouTube music links beforehand that you could play to worship the Lord in your heart and even to sing together as a family. These will also be posted on the Facebook Live video in the comments afterwards and on the NBC website on the sermon page for each Sunday.
- **Growth Groups and other Bible studies are postponed for now for the next 15 days in light of the White House’s declaration and we will re-evaluate and be in touch as the CDC and other agencies share new guidelines.** See below for ways we can continue to be ministered to and minister to each other.

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- Please interact with us if you have Facebook. **You can comment or like during Facebook Live which will help me to know I am not preaching to my computer! But even more importantly, please share our sermons each week and prayer request posts (see below) on Facebook and social media.** The Lord may reach people during this time who would never have sat and listened to a sermon before. Think about the impact this could have on our community for the gospel!
- After prayer and thought, I have decided to postpone the Hebrews study to begin a **new series, “Unshakable Hope in a Shakable World.”** We will return to Hebrews. This Sunday I plan to preach on worry from Matthew 6 to encourage our hearts to look to the Lord in these trying times. Each week in this series I will be attempting to point you to our true hope in God, while also explaining things in a way that somebody who may watch online would be able to receive Christ as Savior and find the same hope in Him. Currently I am planning sermons on forgiveness, peace, resurrection, heaven, faith, and more if the Lord leads.
- **I want to encourage you to continue to prayerfully give to NBC during this time.** The best way is to mail checks or use a bill pay service, to Northshire Baptist Church P.O. Box 927 Manchester Center, VT 05255. We check the physical address mailbox but do not prefer it due to security.
- **This is an incredible opportunity to minister to each other.** Please call each other, text each other, e-mail each other, FaceTime each other, and pray with one another. **Let’s especially check in on those who could not leave their homes for health reasons before or who have health concerns now.** If you do not have somebody’s contact information, e-mail or text Pastor Tim.
- **For any who are elderly or have other health concerns, please let us know if you need help getting groceries or have other needs.**
- **You are completely welcome to make an appointment with me to meet physically at the church building or through the phone.** I am continuing to work from home as I recover with my broken leg, but I will be at the church building as needed.
- **If you hear of needs within the church body but also ways we may minister to our community, please contact me and/or one of our deacons or elders.**
- **There are some incredible kid’s resources being made available for free from some great ministries.** I will be sending some of these out later this week, including

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ways you can use our Gospel Project curriculum (videos and worksheets) at home with your kids for free.

- **Our new marriage class is available to our entire church online, with permission!** Please listen to our Facebook Live sermons each week first, and then consider doing this marriage conference afterwards on Sundays or when you can make time during the week. You may contact the church office at northshirebaptistchurch@gmail.com for the link if you are a member or regular attender.
- We are looking into the possibility of video calls for Growth Groups or other groups that could be newly formed, at least for prayer and digital social interaction with each other if not Bible study discussion. This could start as early as next week.
- **The Elders and Deacons are working on a plan for us to check in with you by phone regularly.** We want to pray with you over the phone and encourage you spiritually during this time.
- **Pastor Tim has been sharing “How Can We Pray for You?” Posts on our NBC Facebook Page with our church e-mail address.** Feel free to share these, and as stated on the post comments, if people don't mark it as “confidential” I will share these with our church family through e-mail each week. Please do the same with your prayer requests and always tell me if it is confidential (otherwise it will be shared with the church family through e-mail). To make the number of e-mails manageable and prayer easier, we will try to do these once or twice a week. Just imagine, we can pray for each other and those in our community even more during this crisis!

Know that you are loved by Jesus and you are loved by Melanie and I and the kids, and your Elders and Deacons. You may be more isolated in some ways during this time, but you are not alone. The Holy Spirit is always with you and please participate in as many of the ideas above as you can so we can continue our fellowship the best that we can during this time.

Looking to Jesus with you,

Pastor Tim