

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SMOKY LAKE

I would like to share a few summary thoughts from regarding how we might respond to COVID-19.

1. Pray (leaning into our relationship with God)

- For God's perspective and peace and protection regarding the virus.
- For a quick and complete end to the pandemic.
- For healing of those who have contracted the virus.
- For hope and help to those suffering from the virus, in physical and economic and emotional ways.
- For wisdom and grace regarding how to practically respond to the virus.
- For eyes to see and ears to hear what God wants to do in us and through us, during this time.

2. Plan (preparing for what might lie ahead) We will:

- Pray/hope for the best; prepare for the worst.
- Encourage anyone who is feeling ill or has symptoms such as fever or coughing to stay home.
- Follow good hygiene practices: individuals washing/sanitizing hands regularly and coughing/sneezing into the elbow or a tissue.
- Use friendly alternatives to shaking hands (elbow bumps, a nod with hand over heart, etc.)
- Handle all food and drink under strict sanitized control.
- Provide offering plates at the back and front of the church.
- Provide necessary contact information for virus updates
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16944.aspx>
- Provide regular updates regarding church ministries/activities (as pertaining to the virus).
- Provide recorded sermons on our church website – smokylakebaptist.ca

3. Proceed (continuing to be His people, living and serving in this world) Let us:

- Resist the temptation to choose or to act out of fear (*Isaiah 41:10*) or anxiety (*Philippians 4:6*)
- Respect those in authority (*Romans 13:1, 7*)
- Remember that the church is so much more than what happens in corporate worship (as important as that is)
- Watch for needs among the most vulnerable in the church and in the world; *the widow, the orphans, the foreigners* (*Deuteronomy 14:29, James 1:27*)
- Look for opportunities and/or develop ways to serve those in need
- Engage our Lord's ongoing redemptive agenda, '*making the most of every opportunity*' (*Colossians 4:5*)
- Celebrate God's sovereignty, in all circumstances, that '*our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever*' (*Hebrews 13:8*)...that...His person has not changed; neither has His presence with us; neither has His purpose for us! When feeling anxious, let's remember John 16:33; Philippians 4:6; Matthew 6:34; 1 Peter 5:7 and Lamentations 3:5. Hold Psalm 91 close to your heart.

Pastor Keith