WORSHIP SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Recently, someone who attended our worship service tested positive for COVID-19 the week following their attendance. They had no symptoms when they attended, nor had they been tested prior to that worship service. Out of an abundance of caution, and in accordance to our commitment to be “reasonably compliant with Biblical fidelity”, First Baptist Church will not be meeting in person for worship on Sunday, October 4th or Sunday, October 11th. The First Baptist Worship Service will be available only via livestream through our social media platforms. This will also delay our October Wednesday Ministry launch until October 21st, two weeks later than planned.

Again, I want to stress that this step is out of an abundance of caution, especially in light of the recent uptick in positive COVID tests in Broome County and throughout the Southern Tier. There is no reason to be overly concerned and we ask that you be in prayer for the region and any individual who may have tested positive. If you had been in close contact with this individual, the Broome County Department of Health would have already been in contact with you in adherence to their contact tracing protocol.

Unfortunately, this is not the only challenge we may face in light of the increase in COVID cases throughout Broome County. While there may be some restlessness and uncertainty in the weeks and months ahead, the Word of God will continue to be proclaimed, albeit in new and creative ways. May God’s people continue to endure and rejoice through our trials, taking great comfort and finding inexpressible joy in Christ alone! No matter what might come, we are secure in Christ, and that is the source of our joy. Beyond that, God is always working for His glory and our good. This past Sunday we reflected on I Peter 1:6-7 and reminded you that, “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it be tried by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Thank you for your patience, and Lord willing, we will gather again on the hill for worship on October 18th.