

As more churches will meet virtually over the coming days, providing your congregation with a space to continue receiving spiritual nourishment is important.

Thanks to the expansion of social media, it is easier than ever to create a strong, online community that will allow your church to stay connected. Below are some suggestions of websites and platforms that will allow you to provide live and pre-recorded worship services.

YouTube—YouTube streaming is free once an account is set up.

Vimeo—Vimeo streaming service has a variety of paid plans available. Premium and above offer live-streaming. Viewers can watch at no cost.

Outreach—Outreach will launch a free solution for smaller churches that will provide a “Live” link for your church website, which automatically enables a Facebook Live or YouTube Live stream to display on your church website. This will help bring people directly to your website and not require them to find you on Facebook, YouTube, etc. This free service should be available now. You can sign up to be notified on the launch date.

Facebook—Facebook Live is a simple way for churches to use your pre-existing Facebook page to reach your congregations. You can also create groups linked to the page for events such as Sunday School and other specific gatherings.

Faithlife—Faithlife offers a number of free and low-cost tools to help you take your church online and stay connected during this crisis, including recording and publishing your sermons, creating a free streaming channel, enabling mobile and online giving, and providing an online community.

churchstreaming.tvChurchstreaming is offering 90-days free due to COVID-19. Offering easy set-up and personalized steps, they will ensure your church is completely set up to stream your services.

Setting up the church for a live-stream can be tricky. Remember, it’s all about what is best for your church!

Another area your church may need help in is online giving.

Generosity

Generosity by LifeWay is opening its digital giving platform to all churches immediately. If your church currently is in need of a digital giving solution this is a very quick and easy opportunity with no setup or monthly subscription fees.

There are also several other sites for online giving. Find out more at texasbaptists.org or sbtexas.com.

East Texas Baptist Network
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The Association Is Churches Together on Mission Demonstrating:	
Spiritual Transformation —The process by which God saves and renews individuals and infuses them with the presence of the Holy Spirit of God to do His will.	
Spiritual Synergy —The process by which believers exercise the habit of creative cooperation, valuing the differences in others, and showing respect in the Christian community.	
Spiritual Unity —The result of transformed believers seeking God’s face and cooperating together in a dynamic, creative way (synergizing), which, as an end, brings glory to God and strengthens His kingdom.	
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Vision Statement:
A strong connection of healthy, reproducing, kingdom-focused churches.

Purpose Statement:
The East Texas Baptist Network exists to facilitate connections among partnering churches.



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ETBN:
A family
of churches
sent on
mission
for
God's
Kingdom

Quarterly Encourager's Meeting
Thursday, May 28
11:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church Liberty City
Guest Speaker:

Dr. Kenneth Priest



Kenneth Priest serves the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as the Director of Convention Strategies. He joined the staff of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in 2008.

Kenneth also serves as the founder and director ad interim for the Center for Church Revitalization at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) and an adjunct professor in church revitalization at SWBTS and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS). He has served churches in Texas and North Carolina in various roles of evangelism, educational ministry, and second chair leadership. While serving the SBTC, Kenneth has had the privilege of serving in the role of interim education minister in several churches in DFW. He holds a Master of Arts in Christian Education from SWBTS and has a Doctor of Educational Ministry degree in Church Revitalization from MBTS.

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East Texas Baptist Network
serving the Southern Baptist churches
in our area for over 62 years

A Word from the ETBN Moderator

A pastor friend and I were recently discussing the times in which we find ourselves. He commented, “I don’t remember the COVID-19 class being offered in Seminary.” I smiled and agreed. Brothers and sisters, we are living in difficult and uncertain times, however, everything we have been taught, everything we have learned, and everything we have experienced before have prepared us as Christian leaders for a day such as this, The truths that have been engrained in us by those that paved the way before us ARE our way through these uncharted waters, Those Christian leaders that led during difficult times before us HAVE shown us the way. As Christian leaders in this day and time, when people are looking to us for guidance, direction, and truth, may we be quick to point others to the only ONE who gives true guidance, direction and truth. May I encourage us as Christian leaders in East Texas Baptist Network to:

Pray:

- Pray for a church staff and church family in our Network that is hurting.
- Pray for fellow pastors that are navigating the same uncharted waters as you.
- Pray for our congregations – all experiencing unfamiliar emotions.
- Pray for our leaders, those in the medical fields, and those affected by this virus and for a cure for this virus.

Minister:

In the same way each of us is trying to navigate through ministering to our congregations while exercising social distancing, don’t forget to check on another pastor or staff member along the way. If each of us would check on just one other pastor or staff member in our Network each week, it will keep us connected in this time of potential separation. Reach out to someone from another church each week.

Trust:

God is faithful, He will Prevail, Those under our care need to be reminded that God is Able! Psalm 24:8, “Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!” Psalm 147:5, “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.” Proverbs 18:10, “The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.”

There may not have been a “course” offered to prepare us for this specific event...but we have been prepared for this. We have been shown the way. Let’s be quick to Pray, Minister, and Trust.

I am blessed to serve with you in our Network.

Grace and Peace.

Donnie Barron,
ETBN Moderator

Kilgore BSM News



Kilgore College is back in session. We did have an extended spring break of one week; however, we are now meeting remotely during regularly scheduled class times via live video. The campus remains open until the CDC states differently. They have removed students from living on campus and gathering in the classrooms to eliminate too many people being in one place at a time. Kilgore College's administration and board of trustees have been making important decisions that appear to be best for our community and the students. Please saturate them in prayer!

The BSM returned March 11 from our mission trip to Rockport, Texas. We took 12, including me, and it was an amazing crew. In fact, this was one of the hardest working crews we have ever had. Our purpose was to help do some rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey had done so much damage in Aransas county. Believe it or not, there is so much work to be done there. This was a great trip for our team in learning how to have a servant heart and we did some great Bible lessons along the way.

Please pray for our students who accepted our GoNow Summer Missions assignments. Considering the situation in our nation right now, our students and their parents are making the decisions to follow God's lead. There is no doubt uncertainty, but they have all agreed to follow through with the discipleship process and commit to fundraising. I hope you and your church will pray for them and consider helping to financially support them. Just imagine the difficult time to fundraise right now. Please email me at jblankenship@kilgore.edu if you are feeling this call to help, whether if be in prayer or financially, so that I can give you more information.

With the campus remaining open, we are seeking new ways to minister to the students. Since the dormitories are closed, there were a number of students (especially International students) who have had to find new lodging. Many of these students still needed proximity to the campus for the uses of the library and computer lab. We helped them find new living situations and over the next couple of weeks we are seeking to help meet some of their other physical needs, such as food, hygiene, and other items that they may be in need of. We will still be holding all of the Bible studies and our Thursday Night Worship service through social media outlets to keep our students connected with each other and most importantly, with Christ!

Here has been my prayer the last couple of weeks, I hope that it encourages you as well. I praise the Lord that He is in control! "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)

In His hand,
Jaymi Blankenship
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	ETBN Calendar April 2020
5	Minister’s Prayer Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Canceled for April
10	Good Friday
12	EASTER
	Due to the coronavirus and social distancing, all activities in April have been canceled.

Minister’s Heart to Heart Monthly Prayer Luncheon

Thursday, April 2
11:45 am,
At Ken Davis’ Home—605 Valentine

Reservations for lunch are due by Monday, March 30

Join your fellow ministers for lunch and a time to fellowship and pray together.

Canceled

JESUS

loved you so much that
He laid down His life to
spend eternity with you!

Wishing you a blessed Easter.

AND THIS IS THE PROMISE WHICH HE
HIMSELF MADE TO US: ETERNAL LIFE.
1 JOHN 2:25

Easter may be different for everyone this year, but we will celebrate our risen savior, either in church or online.

The ETBN office will be working remotely during this time of shutdown. We want to help you any way we can. Call Carolyn if you need any assistance at **903-238-3877**

During this time of social distancing, we want to remind everyone to stay CALM

C—Celebrate God’s goodness. “Rejoice in the Lord Always” Phil.4:4.
A—Ask God for help. “Let your request be made to God” Phil 4:6.
L—Leave your concerns with Him. “With thanksgiving” Phil 4:6.
M—Meditate on good things. “Think about the things that are good and worthy of praise” Phil. 4:8.