

Scaling Up for Reopening

As pastors and church leaders grapple with a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and the reopening process, they’re having to look at the future of their church with new eyes. What aspects of life and ministry will quickly return to normal, slowly return to normal and what will never be the same again?

Most churches are resuming in person worship services this Sunday, May 31. Churches are now allowed to open with 50% capacity attendance. Some of our churches will be able to open their doors to all members for one service. Others will have multiple services to meet the needs of the congregation.

Those that are returning are using social distancing. That may include wearing a mask. Everyone is asked to self-screen and stay home if you are in vulnerable health. Child care and Bible study classes are not being resumed at this time by most churches. One church is resuming bible studies and child care, with strict social distancing.

Some of our churches are taking temperatures before they are ushered in. Hand washing or sanitation is required as you enter by most churches. Churches are still using every other pew and ushering people to their seats and it is helpful do dismiss rows starting at the back to avoid congregating in the aisles and foyer. It is suggested you to not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to services and to leave immediately when you are dismissed.

Offering plates or baskets are usually placed at the entrance/exit to allow you to place your offering in them.

At this time, one church is offering a drive-in VBS this summer. Some churches are looking at having VBS in July. Please let us know your church’s plans for VBS this summer.



Lifeway is offering a digital worship rally VBS program this year. Check out their website and see if they have programs that can help your church.

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

Happy Father's Day!

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He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Proverbs 14:26

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

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Kilgore BSM News



This is the day that the Lord has made, I will be glad and rejoice in it!

The Spring 2020 semester at Kilgore College has come to an end. Our Survey of New Testament class ended well. I can now add teaching remotely to my resume. I am sure there have a lot of firsts for all of us during this time.

By now many of our churches have returned to their buildings for some kind of worship service. It does feel good to be back congregating again, but not for the reasons we once probably thought. Our churches are connected families who are creating one large family. One reason we feel good to be back congregating again is because our church is like family. There is another reason. We also feel good because Hebrews 10:24-25 is a mandate toward discipleship. Churches feel better about meeting together again because they are able to return to the work that the Lord has placed them together to do.

June summer courses will begin soon and Kilgore College will be allowing some of the "Hands-On" classes to begin meeting face to face again. We are hopeful this will be a positive experience. If all goes well, we will probably see the fall semester look more like the traditional classes. Currently, we are sewing hundreds of masks together for all the faculty, staff, and students so they can return to the class. Everyone must wear a mask in a Kilgore College facility.

Five of our students have been training in spiritual preparation toward serving this summer in our state as summer missionaries. One in particular has actually already began her mission work. She is serving as a virtual intern for the New York City Baptist Association. Some of her activities have been meeting with international college students there by Zoom. These meetings are giving her the opportunity to share her faith. This past Monday, the conversation opened up allowing her to share her testimony with the group and they engaged her with great questions afterwards. Please pray as the gospel is already at work there.

We currently have about 14 international students who are still around campus this summer, hopeful to have an opportunity to return to the classroom this fall. However, there are a few who have met with me (some in tears) and admitted they really did want to just go home. Their parents, with their own reasoning, have told them it is not safe and that they need to remain here. The BSM has been trying to feed them and help provide any material items they may need. Some have just wanted to come talk.

There is a church plant in the South Chicago area that has made contact with me requesting the BSM to help them.

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Kilgore BSM News

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They are hopeful that this fall the community will be able to be more open with the use of masks in public. As a church plant, they are hoping to be able to help provide masks for as many people in the community as possible. This is where they have asked for our help. So we will be sewing even more masks together as soon as we are done with the ones for Kilgore College. If anyone would like to help by making masks or donating materials, please contact me.



In June, I will be seeking God's direction in planning for this next year. Please help me by praying for me. Also, please add our five summer missionaries to your prayer lists at church; if you need their names email me and I can get those for you. I will be contacting all of our churches and seeing how the BSM can be a help for you this summer. There are students who are ready and willing to help with VBS and other activities that you may be doing soon.

Blessings,

Jaymi Blankenship
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	ETBN Calendar June 2020
4	Minister's Prayer Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Calvary Baptist
8	Network Leadership Team Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Calvary
21	Father's Day
	All Summer Camps have been canceled due to limitations imposed by Covid-19

Minister's Heart to Heart Monthly Prayer Luncheon

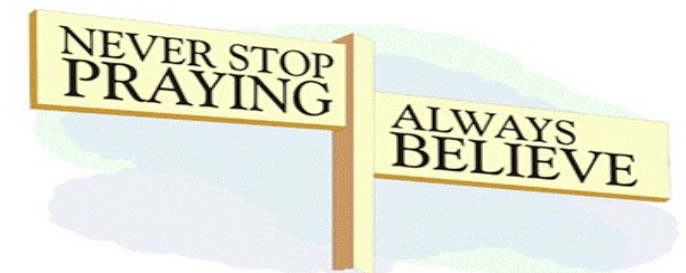


Thursday, June 4, 2020

11:45 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church

Bring your brown bag lunch and join again with your fellow ministers.



Pray for our churches that are seeking a pastor:

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Forest Hill Baptist Church

Forest Home Baptist Church

Mobberly Baptist Church

Trinity Baptist Church