



highland baptist church
HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA

UPDATE AS OF TUESDAY, MARCH 17th, 2020

Dear Highland Church Family,

In light of the recent events in our world, the growing need for social distancing, and keeping in step with the suggestions made by the CDC (cdc.gov) and our President, your HBC Leadership (Staff and Deacon Body) gathered together Monday night to discuss what our next steps would be as a church body. With much thought, discussion, and seeking the Lord's will in prayer, this letter is written to inform you of our conclusions, which are stated below:

- The church building will effectively be closed for the remainder of March or until further notice. However, the church herself (the people) will continue to worship, minister, serve, and thrive as we all walk through this difficult time together.
- All programs for Wednesdays, March 18th and March 25th have been cancelled.
- We will not gather Sunday, March 22nd or 29th, in-person, morning or evening.
- All areas of programming are cancelled including music, children, youth, and seniors.
- The church office will effectively be closed. The staff will work and minister from home via phone, computer and internet technology. Phone numbers for staff and informational website links will be posted on the doors of the church.
- In lieu of no in-person services or groups, we will have a service for each of the next two Sundays that will be posted on our website homepage (www.hbchickory.org) and our official church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HBChickory). That service will be posted at 10:30am each Sunday morning.
- These video-driven services will consist of a time of announcements, a brief lesson for the children and students by Pastor Ryan, music with Pastor Kenny, and a message from Dr. Little.
- Sermon notes and a small group study guide pertaining to Dr. Little's message will be made available on the website as a means for deeper personal study. All materials that are normally printed (bulletin inserts, prayer sheets, scheduling, etc.) will be on our website, as well.
- There will be a link to click for needs, prayer requests, questions, suggestions, etc. That link will automatically connect to staff, who will handle each issue appropriately. You may also simply pick up the phone and text or call our staff 24/7.
- The giving of tithes and offerings will continue to be necessary in order for Highland to pay the bills, support the ministries, meet payroll, etc. We will be launching online giving that will enable our people to conveniently give through the website or the church app – from your phone, tablet, or computer. Clear instructions as to online giving will be posted on the home page this week (hickory.org). Of course, you can always simply mail in your check to the

church's physical address: 828 9th Ave. NE, Hickory, NC 28601. The USPS mail will be attended to when possible.

Highland's staff and deacons will reconvene next Thursday, March 26th, to reassess the situation at hand and will update the church of any necessary changes to our plans unless a need arises that would require us to meet earlier. We will strive to communicate well via the means available to us, and we ask that you be faithful to check these resources often in order to be well informed. Consistent communications and updates will continue to be posted to our home page and our Facebook page:

Church website home page: hbchickory.org

Church Facebook page: [facebook.com/HBCHickory](https://www.facebook.com/HBCHickory)

Pastor Kenny's phone/email: 828.308.1687 kenny5856@gmail.com

Pastor Ryan's phone/email: 828.334.5457 ryanflynt63@gmail.com

Pastor Gray's phone/email: 828.242.7515 drgraylittle51@gmail.com

Lisa Skinner's phone/email: 828. 302.3269 Lskinner.hbc@gmail.com

We appreciate your grace, mercy, understanding, and cooperation as we all persevere to be everything Jesus wants us to be during this unique time. Highland must live beyond merely survival. Rather, we will persevere to *thrive* in worship, service, and ministry!

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." -Hebrews 12:1,2

HBC Leadership
Staff/Deacon Body