

Things change so quickly in our world. Just two weeks ago we were aware of a virus but had no idea the far reaching affects it would have in just two short weeks. Even though we have temporarily suspended our physical gatherings at a building, Bethel will continue to “be the church” and fulfill its mission to: “Love, Learn, Grow, and Go.” It may look differently over the next few weeks, but we are committed to meeting the spiritual, emotional, and where possible, the physical needs of our congregants and our community.

To follow the guidelines set forth by our Governor and the medical community we are making the following changes. To minimize the number of people in the building, effective today, Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we are going to suspend all in building activities and services until Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. However, this excludes the personnel necessary for streaming our services on Sundays and Wednesdays. Although the building doors will be closed, there will be limited staff on site during our regular business hours of Mon, Tue, Wed, and Fri from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you need to speak with anyone, please call the church at 405-390-2381 or Pastor Jeff at 405-200-5712.

We will continue to stream our services online. The three methods you can see them live are:

1. Bethel's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/bethelchurchchoctaw/>
2. Bethel's website at <http://www.bcchoctaw.org> (Available Sundays and Wednesdays Only)
3. Bethel's YouTube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMYCH17Jq-SfzRdLVOo\\_apQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMYCH17Jq-SfzRdLVOo_apQ) (Available Sundays and Wednesdays Only)

We recommend you “Like” Bethel's Facebook page and “Subscribe” to Bethel's YouTube Channel. When you do this, you are more likely to see when we go live.

The currently scheduled “Live” streams are as follows:

- Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Life Class with Keith Fife
- Sundays 9:50 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. Youth Bible Life Class with Steven Kappelman
- Sundays 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Worship (Chris Rich) and the message (Pastor Jeff)
- Wednesdays 7 p.m. Revelation teaching with Pastor Temple

In addition to the live streaming of regular services we will also be live streaming at various times throughout the week so be sure you “Like” the Facebook page so you will be notified when we go live.

There will also be other videos posted from time to time that have Youth, Children, and Pre-school content. These may not be live, but they will still be on the Facebook page, website, and our YouTube channel.

We want to thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the ministry of Bethel Church Choctaw. Even though we aren't gathering at a physical location, the needs and the ministries of the church continues. It is more important than ever for you to continue to be faithful in your giving. Here are three ways you can give electronically:

- You can give online at [bcchoctaw.org](http://bcchoctaw.org); Select “Give Online.”
- You can give via text by texting the amount you would like to give to 405-347-7046.
- You can download the “GivePlus” app from your smartphone's app store.

And of course, you may always drop off your gift at the church office during our regular business hours of Monday thru Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also mail in your offering to P.O. Box 640 Choctaw, OK 73020. If you need anyone to pick up your offering, we can do that also. Just call 405-390-2381. God bless you and let's make a difference in our world by sharing the love of Christ!

### **A personal word from Pastor Jeff**

Letter to the Church

Good afternoon, my church family. As we journey together through this unknown territory, I would like to share my feelings of encouragement.

I am so encouraged by the support and love for the church leaders and staff. I am even more encouraged by the incredible evangelism by the Church (all of us) for the glory of God.

We have been somewhat forced to view and process church services differently and I think that it has been a tremendous growing experience. Even in difficult and strange times, I find myself excited about the advancement of the gospel. The Church has come together in unity for the growth of the Kingdom! We are asking ourselves, "What does God need the church to look like in 2020?"

I am also encouraged by His overwhelming peace throughout these times.

I am reminded of Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

And

*Philippians 4:7 (NASB) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

During these ever-changing times, please do not allow your thoughts and your actions to be controlled by fear – preparation and caution, yes - but not fear. Fill yourself with God's Word more than the words of man.

*John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (NASB)*

God knew that we would go through crazy times, so He assured us with the ultimate refuge – Jesus and His peace.

*James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,...*

Well, okay, I mean, it's in the Bible so I will do it. Sounds difficult, but here we go!!!

Find joy and peace in your lives today. Dwell on that, more than anything else. Make a list of things that bring you joy and peace. Wake up everyday and list all the things for which you are thankful! Find scriptures that help in your situation. Put them on your fridge, mirrors, and doors. Memorize them and quote them often.

Remember that YOU are a big deal to God. He paid the highest price, to adopt YOU into His family! And remember that I love you and I am always available to talk or pray with you.

Pastor Jeff Donaldson – 405-200-5712