

# SONSHINERS

A MINISTRY OF

MATT 5:15 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RUSKIN, FLORIDA MATT 13:43

March 23, 2020

Hey Everyone

It is at times like these that church family shines the best.

Because of the seriousness of this situation the authorities have decided that it would be best that all gatherings of more than 10 should not occur. This includes worship services. This means until further notice we here at FBCR will not have any services, gatherings or activities that would involve over 10 people at a time.

This is a fluid situation and we will be monitoring it on a daily basis.

We will be recording the services in advance and then making them available via our website in both audio and video. They will be posted by Sunday morning at 10:30 am.

Click on this link for the audio <https://www.fbcruskin.org/media/sermons-current-series/>

Click on this link for the video <https://www.fbcruskin.org/sermon-videos/>

**Along with these service changes we will also be cancelling all other ministry activities until further notice.**

## **This includes Sonshiners.**

We are aware that most of the Sonshiners fall into the high risk category. I haven't made this decision until now because earlier this week the authorities were saying that things would start to be back to normal by the end of March. When they extended the time limit several days ago I realized that the timeline was now into April. I didn't feel comfortable putting Sonshiners in a situation that they did not feel safe or comfortable.

We had Jason Runnels scheduled to be with us in our April meeting. I have spoke with Jason and we were not able to reschedule him for May of this year. Sonshiners will send him a love gift to help him through. God has been good and Sonshiners has the funds to help Jason out a bit.

I have several friends who are traveling Evangelist (both speakers and singers) and many live from week to week. The loss of even a few dates spread throughout the year can be tough but to lose several (or potentially more) in a row is going to be detrimental to their finances.

Do be in prayer for these artist that come to minister to us in Sonshiners, this is going to be very trying times for them and they are all such a blessing to us when they come.

We are praying for a quick resolution to this situation but understand that God has it all under control and knows exactly what lies ahead.

We are hoping and planning to be back to normal by Easter Sunday.

We will do our best to keep everyone posted by all the means we have at our disposal, "One Call", FaceBook, the church website and by personal phone calls.

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If you or anyone you know have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact us here in the church office, 813-645-6439.

Bro Barry has written an open letter to those who attend FBCR. We have posted it on the website.

Please continue to pray for those who are affected by this situation. Remember it may not be just those, who may contract the virus. There are those who may struggle economically. Those who are emotionally affected. Those, who have loved ones in a Assisted Living, Rehab Facilities and hospitals can't even visit their loved ones. There are many ways to be affected by this situation.

Once again may I remind you that if you know of someone who has self-isolated themselves' for personal and health reasons and especially if they are a Senior Adult please reach out to them and give them a call and see if there is anything they might need. As I said at the beginning of this E-Mail; "It's at times like these that church family shines the best".

Bro Barry was very complimentary of the way Sonshiners looks after each other, by visiting and calling folks to make sure all is well. Keep up the good work and finding different ways of ministering to others.

*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.* Gal. 6:10

I was reading a book this week by an author I like, (the book did not have anything to do with the virus situation, matter of fact it was written in 2013). He made this statement in the opening paragraph of the book.

"You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime don't be foolish or naive. But don't despair either. With God's help you will get through this."

Remember this didn't catch God by surprise and He knows exactly how this is going to turn out in the end.

Bro Barry has asked us to remember what *Psalm 71:1* says. "*In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.*"

I miss seeing each of you and look forward to the end of this so we can meet again.

Remember to "Be Sensible, Be Safe, & Be Sanitary".

"Faithfully  
His"

*Jim Farr*

*1 Tim. 1:12*