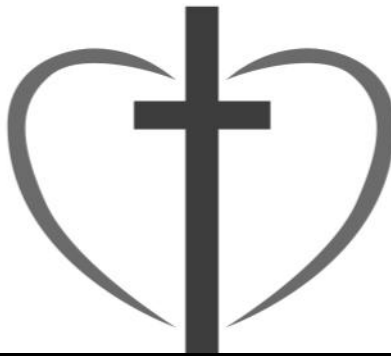


# Temple Baptist Church



May 2020

**Wade Allen**  
Lead Pastor

**Derrick Bremer**  
Pastor of Student Ministries

**John O'Connor**  
Pastor of Community Engagement

**Ron Fields**  
Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries



Hello friends and church family! We want you to know that we are praying for you all as we endure this time of partial lockdown. I know that many of you are anticipating the opportunity to “Re-open Temple” as soon as possible—we share that sentiment also—but we want you to know that we will exercise caution as we seek to make these decisions.

I am reminded of James’ words in the first chapter of his small, but powerful letter. He wrote, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” I find that I am asking for wisdom on a much regular basis these days! Thank you for your prayers for me and all of our pastoral team. This is a stress-filled time, but I am thankful for each one’s faithfulness.

Just about everything that we do in ministry here at Temple has been modified in one way or another. I want to thank everyone for your flexibility and generosity. In that regard, I am asking you to keep on being adaptable and charitable!

We are in the midst of planning for the phased re-opening of our church and ministries (again, prayer for wisdom is appreciated). I listen

daily to the Covid-19 Update hosted by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and Dr. Nate Smith, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health. As our state is making plans to re-open Arkansas for business, I want you to know that we are considering all recommendations (including CDC, White House, and surrounding states) as we make preparations.

For the next few weeks (May 3 & 10), we will not be opening our doors for services. On May 3, we will be streaming our services online. And on Mother’s Day—May 10 (weather permitting), we will be hosting “Drive-in Church” in the parking lot.

We are looking forward to hearing from Governor Hutchinson concerning the re-opening of churches. That announcement is scheduled for Monday, May 4th.

When we are given the go-ahead to re-open, we will execute a three-phased plan for resuming public worship services and other ministries. Please understand that this will be an extended process. We will need patience and flexibility as we work through this!

Details concerning policies and protocols for each phase will be forthcoming. We cannot give you a timeline of how long each phase will be. To be certain, this is a new normal, but God is still on His throne and He has some amazing things in store for us during this time!



# Senior Adult Ministry

Ron Fields, Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

How will you be different when Covid-19 is behind us?

Currently, we are in a season of transition. We have been jolted out of our comfort zone. What we have taken for granted has been taken away. The familiar has become unknown territory. We have been adjusting to meeting the challenges of life in ways that are strange to us.

Now, when we have just somewhat become used to face masks, social distancing, and limiting contact, we hear that soon, some of these hindrances will be removed from our lives.

What I have missed, and many I talk to have missed, is the gathering together when we meet for worship on the Lord's Day. Thankfully, we have sung with the worship team and we have listened carefully to the preaching of our pastor on-line during this time of adjustment.

Soon we will enter our comfortable building, sit in our comfortable pews, and interact before and after the worship services.

How will we be different? Will there be a new sense of anticipation? Will there be a new awareness of the importance of seeking God? Will there be a conscious effort to discover God's will?

2 Chronicles 7:14a "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves..."



TEMPLE  
STUDENT  
MINISTRIES

Derrick Bremer, Pastor of Student Ministries

Where do I go from here? Our church has embraced creative mediums to connect people to one another. I'm confident that as our lives begin to transition to normal (whenever that may be), that we'll continue to pursue these new ventures and forums. I am excited to see friends and loved ones who are unchurched join us online from California, and from within our own neighborhood. I am encouraged to hear the feedback of families being touched by our online and drive-by AWANA ministry. I am astounded by the



dedication of our Sunday School teachers who have continued to serve their classes.

From within all of this excitement, though, my heart feels conflicted. I want to get back to doing things the way we did only a few weeks ago. I want to get back to shooting unsuspecting children with my air cannon and laughing as I acknowledge within myself that my timing was a smidge inappropriate. I want to get back to seeing smiles as our students come together. I want to get back to being reminded of High School troubles as students stumble in mentally exhausted and committed to their church. I'm excited, but I'm also somewhat ennui for the restoration of normalcy.

Right now, I am using this time to evaluate what "normal" looks like in our student ministry.



John O'Connor, Pastor of Community Engagement

## How to be the Church When You Can't Go to Church

I hope that this finds you well, and in good spirits. I know that each of our unique experiences around this new world has been difficult. I did despair for a day, letting my own fears and stress get the better of me. After a nice nap and a walk, something struck me as I walked with my family around the neighborhood. God doesn't just 'know' what is going on, He wants me to thrive in what is going on. To take advantage of this time. So my attitude and my resolve changed for the better in that moment.

There were three things I had to recognize to get to that good place. The first thing to recognize is that **"Your circle of influence has changed."** There is no telling what the future holds, but what is more likely is that our world is going to change a bit. Social distancing may become part of the new normal (haha to all you huggers!). Your circle of influence, or the people whose lives you can directly impact their concerns and their successes, has changed and in some cases it has narrowed.

The second thing to recognize is that **"Your mission field has changed."** We aren't going and traveling the same way we used to. And de-

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I'm interested in how this emotional conflict is possible, though. If you haven't already looked at it, I've started publishing mid-week devotionals for individuals or families that explore the biblical spectrum of emotions expressed in the book of Psalms. I'd love to hear your feedback and insights through this study.

pending on your level of "at risk", you may be limited to where and how you can actually love and reach His people.

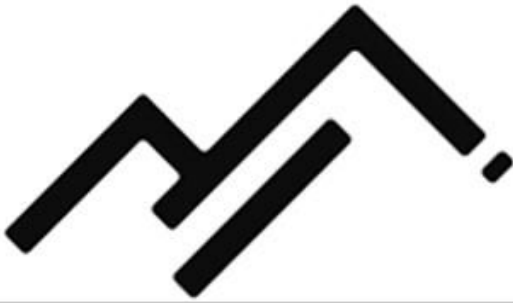
The last thing we need to recognize is that **"God is still God, and the great commission is still the goal."** Jesus didn't say that "if it's hard" or "if it's crazy times" stay at home and watch all the shows you didn't have time to watch before. He said Go and Make disciples... Teaching them Everything!

So with all of that said, how can we do this? Whether your circle of influence is the family you live with, the friends you call/text, or maybe your neighbors, God wants you to reach out to that person or persons and love on them. Pray for them, or better yet call (or Zoom) them to find out what they are struggling with and pray with them. Send them a card, text, or send them a meal on Doordash, bitesquad, any pizza place, etc... You can do all of that without actually physically being there.

When we consider your mission field this can be a little more tricky. Micah Powell called me the other day, and gave me some creative ideas to consider. You can drive by your friends home, call or text them that you are out there and praying for them. If you're feeling exceptionally friendly, you could get out and talk to them from a safe distance. If you don't feel like driving around, you can walk your neighborhood and pray for you neighborhood, pray for each house. If they are out there, and you have never talked to them, now's the time. How are they doing, do they have family, do they need anything, how can you pray for them?

The Great commission didn't change. Christians should be the model of compassion and resolve in this time. We have freedom knowing that in any environment, Jesus is Lord forever and ever. God wants you to seize this time, Love His People.





# EQUIP Courses

## ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE

Choose from one of these topics or tell us what you want to study if you don't see it here.

### Spiritual Growth

- Temple's Discipleship Pathway
- Spiritual Development
- Temple's Leadership Pathway

### Ministry Training

- Evangelism / Discipleship
- Kids Ministry
- Student Ministry
- Alpha Ministry
- Community Groups
- Adult Sunday School
- Men's / Women's Ministry
- Deacon Ministry
- Worship Ministry
- Guest Services

### Theological Training

- Interpreting / Teaching the Bible
- Christian Theology
- New Testament Survey
- Missions / Evangelism

Please contact the church office or one of the pastors if you are interested in online training.



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