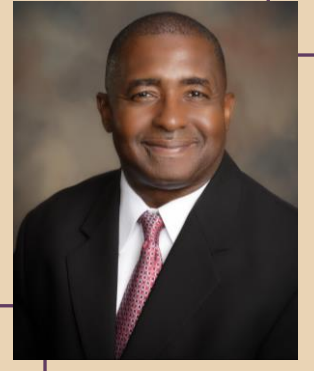


OFFICIAL PASTORAL STATEMENT

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 8:38-39 KJV



While we live in uncertain times, there is one thing of which we can be certain, we serve a God who loves us unconditionally and will bring us through even the most difficult of times. Sadly, we understand that it may not be possible for some of the members of our congregation to be all together in church when we resume services. Although some restrictions are being lifted in some cities and states, regionally and nationally, the continuing risk of the Covid-19 global pandemic will necessitate that we return to church in a way that is unrushed and attentive of the needs of those who are at risk and vulnerable. While some may begin to attend public worship in person, we know that some will need to continue to worship at home for a time.

We give thanks for the assurance of faith that the Lord God will always bless and keep us. During this time, our faith has not changed, it has only strengthened. We now know God in ways we have not known him before, and we can add this crisis to the repertory of his goodness and keeping power. We can take consolation and encouragement from the instance of the early believers who spent much time together in the temple, as well as broke bread at home with gladness and joy. (Acts 2:46).

In the future, we expect our congregation to resume public activities, but please know that we will do so through a meticulous process of discussion, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable. We have been in discussion with our city officials, reviewing CDC guidelines and speaking to Health professionals who have provided insight and guidance in this process. Therefore, upon consideration of the Holy Spirit and its leading, we will go forth with these things in mind at the appropriate time. Of course, you will be fully informed when that time comes. Please know that JBC cares about you— that is our edict.

As we begin to employ these protocols, we may make mistakes along the way and there will be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There may also be times of frustration, however, it is providential that we practice patience, kindness, gentleness, and long-suffering. Still, I believe there will also be times of bountiful blessings. Because of calvary, there will be great celebrations, testimonies of miracles and stories of divine favor. God is doing a new thing and we will witness it during our lifetime. We must believe that we will see a greater measure of love, joy and peace.

Let us remain faithful, in our service and in our giving. We will continue to be guided by the almighty God and his word and most importantly his spirit. Finally, let's rest in the understanding that nothing in the past, or in the future, can separate us from his love.

By his grace,
Bishop James G. Rodges
Senior Pastor, Jonesville Baptist Church