



# Bellevue

## BAPTIST CHURCH

---

Pastor Joel Creekmore  
425.985.7360  
info@reachbellevue.com  
www.reachbellevue.com

Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore, your church planter in Bellevue, Washington. Aren't you tired of hearing about unprecedented times! We are too and yet we find ourselves giving an update for a period when we have not been able to knock doors or hold in-person services. Strange indeed. With that said, God is still working, and we wanted to update you.

The Lord has blessed us with two new members just before we had to stop having in person services in March. Looking back over the last 6 months we have had five new members in total. This is dramatic growth for us and brings our membership to 32 individuals including children. Our last member was added to the church the last Sunday in March that we were able to hold regular in person services. He got in under the wire! Our newest members have been a blessing. One is in discipleship even during this time and the other has let me know how the Lord is using the preaching to change him. That is exciting. We long for souls to be saved, but I am reminded that helping Christians to grow in grace and observe all things is also what we are called to do and seeing that happen brings great joy.

We are thankful that before the Coronavirus we already were livestreaming all services, so when we were told to shelter in place, we didn't have to scramble to enable services. We have continued with our normal service schedule of 4 services a week and that has given some consistency and normality to what is an otherwise turbulent time. Instead of livestreaming our mid-week service we use the Microsoft Teams video conferencing service and have a corporate prayer meeting. This has become my favorite service of the week not only because we are able to pray together but because we are able to see each other and fellowship after the meeting.

Even though services are dramatically different being online we have received several guests. The barrier to entry for an online service is much lower than going to church and so we have had many invited friends of members join us online for services. That is exciting. We have even had guests from the area on livestream that we are not sure how they heard about us. One person even gave online and put in a note that when the state opens up, he would like to visit us. Well amen. God is not limited by either a pandemic or a government.

With 2020 we have seen a fairly dramatic decline in tithes and offerings. No doubt, COVID-19 has a large part to play in this as we have members that have been furloughed and have had hours reduced. Overall, we have seen a 30% decrease in our tithes year to date. While that can be discouraging, we have seen our missions giving during this same time period increase by almost 40% despite having to cancel our missions conference. We continue to trust in the Lord, but we would appreciate your prayers for the finances.

Christelle and I were able to travel to a supporting church in Missouri in early March for their missions conference and that was a tremendous blessing. About a week after returning however both she and I ended up sick for about two weeks. Using Apple's CDC Coronavirus self-diagnostic app, we had all the symptoms that were listed. We stayed home, I still preached online, and thankfully we eventually got back to 100%. Other than that episode, our family has continued to be healthy.

In other news, the commercial complex that our suite is in was recently purchased. Although we do have a little over a year left on our lease, we were worried that they may be planning on demolishing the current complex to put up a mid-rise. That type of development has been occurring all around us. We have been praying to either be able to stay in our current location or for God to provide a new one. Well, I don't think with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic anyone will be making those types of moves right away so that is at least one good outcome out of the

craziness that we are all experiencing. With that said, we would appreciate prayer for God to either keep us in our current location or for Him to provide something else for us.

This is certainly a crazy time for everyone, but above all, it is a blessing to know that we have a God who cares and is in control! If we just had a God that cared, that would be nice, but it would not give us hope. We have a God that is in control of everything. Please pray that our church would fully take advantage of this special time to shine the light of Christ and point people to Jesus.

Thank you and God bless.

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore