



April 21, 2020

To: Lilly Hill Baptist Church Members

Fr: John F. Hurst, Pastor

Re: Opening of churches

As you may already know on yesterday Gov. Brian Kemp ended his call for churches to be closed during this Coronavirus pandemic, which means that as early as this Sunday, April 26, 2020, churches will be allowed to gather in the sanctuary to worship. However, I do not fully support this move and I agree with medical experts that it's simply too soon. Therefore, Lilly Hill Baptist Church will remain closed to public worship over the next few weeks. We will continue to live stream our worship virtually on [facebook.com/lillyhill.baptistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/lillyhill.baptistchurch) and through our call-in line 872-240-3311, Access Code 555-391-341 at 11 am.

Most scientists and health experts believe that Georgia will reach its peak within the next two weeks (10-14 days). Hannah Harris, who wrote an article on the 1996 Tragedy titled "How Climbing Mount Everest Works", said that the problems you experience as you climb to the peak of Mount Everest are the same effects that you experience as you start to descend from the peak of Mount Everest. My number one concern is the health and welfare of our members. After the peak, I want to see us begin to flatten the curve of this pandemic before we re-open our church for public worship. Money is not more important than your life.

I ask that you please pray with me that our governor is right, however, I do not believe that we should bow to calls and protest of those who are pushing a political agenda. I want us to be safe in opening our churches, restaurants, gyms, and other business.

Again, I'd love to see you in person, but I want to see you safe. I never thought I'd be saying this, but I urge each and every one of you to refrain from public worship until we're in the safe zone on the other side of the peak.

Best Regards,

Reverend John F. Hurst, Pastor