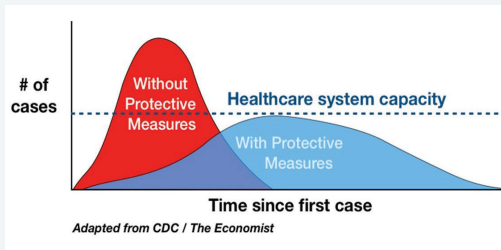


refrain from gathering in person lightly, but we feel this is an appropriate measure to take given Christ's instructions that we are to be good neighbors. Given our technological capabilities and our concerns for the health of our congregation, especially its most vulnerable members, we feel this is the best action to take at this time. We will continually be re-assessing the situation and, in conjunction with leaders of our community and leaders of our church, will plan accordingly. As is our practice, we will of course advise you as these decisions are developed and made.

The goal of these efforts is, as experts in these fields say, to flatten the curve, in order to reduce the pressure on the healthcare system as the situation develops. If the healthcare system is overwhelmed, an array of negative consequences cascade from that leading to a much more serious crisis. I've included below a simple graph that illustrates this phenomenon.



As your pastor, I also want to ask for your help in regard to the following two subjects, both of which are vital to our church and its continuing missions and ministries:

Pastoral

Our staff will be working remotely during this time. Please communicate with any minister as needed. If you encounter a need with respect to life safety, nourishment, medication, anxiety, or the like, please contact Greg Funderburk at greg@smbc.org or 713-305-9797. I am also encouraging you to reach out to those you may consider most vulnerable and to remain in touch with your Sunday School communities and small groups.

Giving

During these weeks of uncertainty, one of the best ways you can help our South Main church family is to [give online](#), or better yet, to [automate your giving](#).

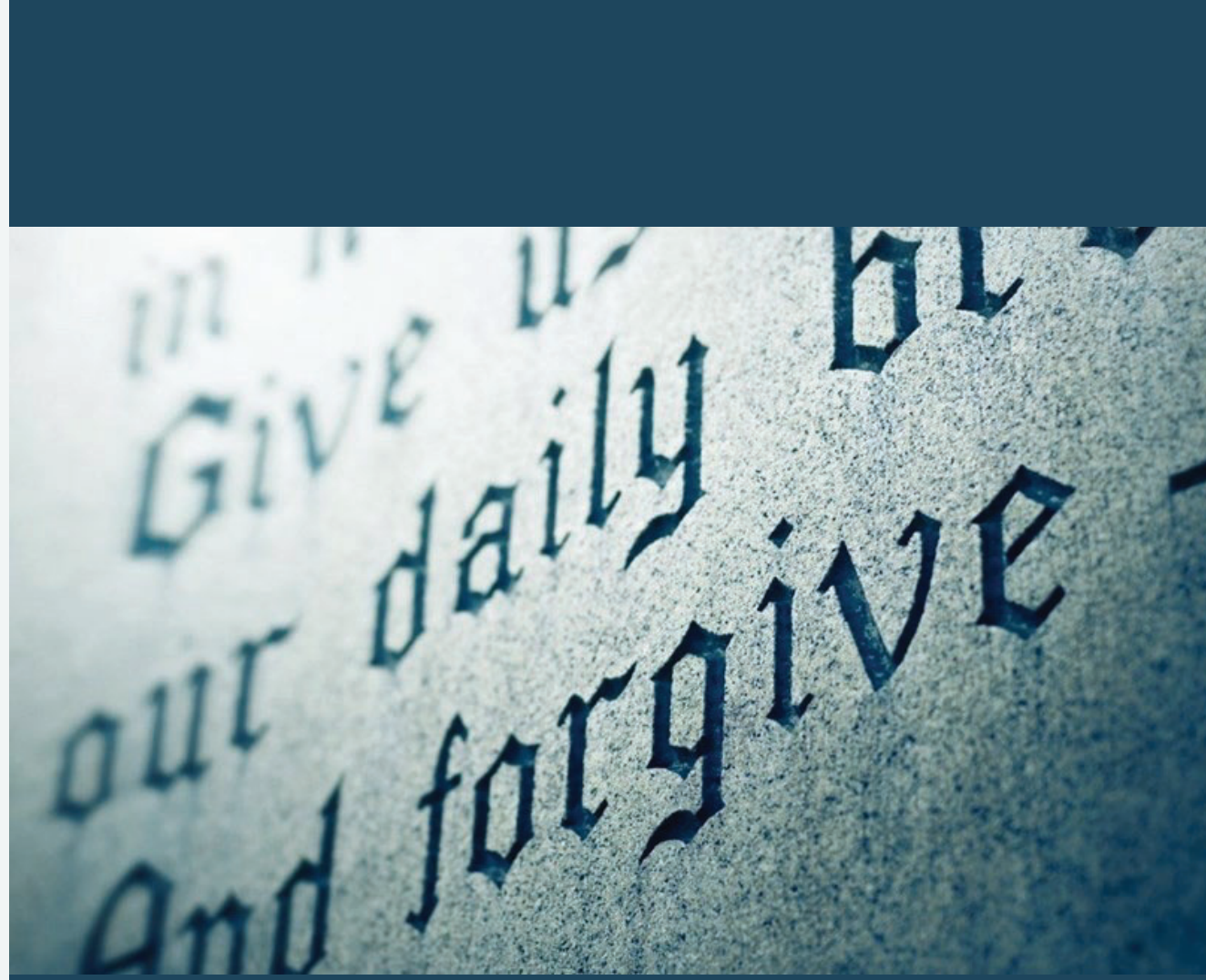
We will continue paying all of our employees and maintaining their health insurance during this time even when they are not physically working at the church. Our staff will not be required to use any vacation or sick leave during this time. We want to make sure our employees' lives are as stable as possible during this unstable time.

As you worship with us online, bringing God's house into your house, as you continue to sustain our church with your resources, and as you keep in touch with and encourage one another, please join me both in praying for God's world, our nation, our city, and all our leaders, as well as remaining the steadfast presence of Christ in your neighborhoods and communities.

Grace and truth,
Steve Wells



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WORSHIP

MARCH 15, 2020

to forgive divine

MORNING WORSHIP

“Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.”

Philemon 7

GATHER

Tolling the Hour

Prelude

Blessed Assurance
(arr. Callahan)
Yuri McCoy

Call to Worship

Steve Wells

PRAISE

Hymn 58

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Morning Prayer concluding with The Lord’s Prayer

Dolores Rader

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the Kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

REFLECT

Hymn 57

Be Still, My Soul

Anthem

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
(arr. Nelson)
Sanctuary Choir
Chris French, Cello

Good News

Steve Wells

RESPOND

Hymn 590

The Solid Rock

Offertory

Amazing Grace
Lynda McKnight

Doxology (OLD HUNDRETH)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Susan Moore

Benediction

Steve Wells

Postlude

Toccata on *Amazing Grace*
(Pardini)
Yuri McCoy

CCLI #1763254

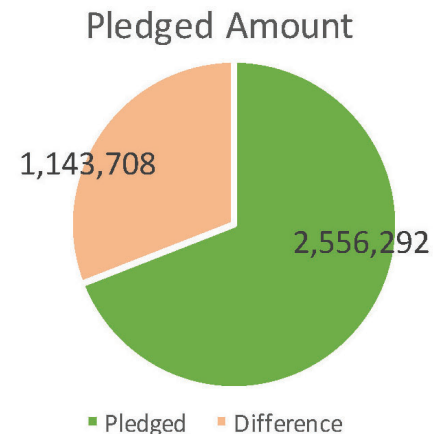
DISCOVER/SHARE

Lenten Blog

Check out the SMBC blog (smbc.org/blog) each weekday during Lent for encouraging words from our church family on the topic of forgiveness. Thanks to our Discipleship Committee members for enhancing our journey toward the Cross this Lenten season.

Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Our Bright Hope for Tomorrow campaign to retire the debt from the renovation of the Sanctuary building continues to see a steady growth in pledges. We have picked up an additional 38 pledges in 2020, bringing our total pledges to 218. Those pledges represent more than \$2.5M of our \$3.7M goal. There's still time for you to prayerfully consider a commitment to this effort at smbc.org/pledge.



CHURCH STAFF

Steve Wells	Pastor
Carey Cannon	Minister of Music & Worship
Greg Funderburk	Minister for Pastoral Care
Brad Jernberg	Minister of Administration for Operations
Susan Moore	Minister of Administration for Communications
Dolores Rader	Minister to Families
Matt Walton	Minister for Discipleship

DEAR SOUTH MAINERS—

Grace and Peace to you.

As your pastor, I am reaching out to you concerning our plans at South Main given the most recent developments regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. We continue to be in ongoing contact with community, medical, business, and faith leaders in our area as we navigate this situation. As we continue to be church to one another, our primary aim during this season is the safety of our members, our neighbors, and fellow citizens. In this regard, we want to be a part of the strategic community solution to reduce the effect of the virus. You may be familiar with recent decisions to close the Houston Rodeo, several school districts in the area, and other events and meetings which would bring large numbers of people into close proximity with one another.

As a result of these recommendations, we have decided to close the South Main campus for two weeks through March 27. Because the campus will be closed and because we are fortunate at South Main to have livestream capabilities, we invite and urge South Mainers to worship online at smbc.org at 11:20 AM on March 15 and 22. We do not make this decision to

CONTINUED