**Frequently Asked Questions**

**\*You can find a more detailed list of the damage our church sustained from the tornado by going to our homepage at fbcmj.org. Please remember that we are moving forward with a worship center building proposal as well as the rebuilding of our campus after the tornado damage. Although these are two separate building projects, they are part of one campus plan and we can work on both at the same time.**

**The Campus Planning Team is also moving forward with a proposal for the building of a new worship center.**

**QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TORNADO DAMAGE**

***What is the present status of our worship center and campus facilities?***

Our campus sustained major damage to significant parts of our facilities. The children’s building is the only building that is currently approved for access at this time. The impact of the damages to the sanctuary and the main church facility are still being evaluated, and these buildings are not currently accessible. There is a detailed list of the damage that you can find on our church website at www.fbcmj.org.

***Where will we have church if we can’t use our sanctuary?***

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic response, our pastor and staff worked diligently to secure an interim location for us to meet for worship. While the social distancing requirement is in effect, we will continue to Live Stream our services on Sundays via Facebook Live. Once we are able to physically gather together for worship, we will make an announcement regarding the location of our next in-person worship service.

***How much of the tornado damage will be covered by insurance?***

The church campus is fully insured, including the sports fields, ancillary buildings, and the property inside the buildings. Anything that has been damaged or destroyed will be fully covered by insurance. We have already developed a list of items such as furniture, equipment, and decorative pieces that were damaged or destroyed. These items will be reimbursed by our insurance coverage. Chris Rodgers, our interim Church Administrator, is working directly with our insurance company on our behalf. We are grateful for the great progress that we are making on the assessment so far.

***When will we get the insurance settlement funds?***

Our insurance company has been helpful and responsive so far in our assessment and we are grateful for that. The company has had representatives on campus numerous times since the tornado. An initial report is expected by the end of March. The final insurance report and settlement will likely take a few months. Until the full settlement is reached, the insurance company has agreed to release funds as needed to help the church in the interim. For example, the insurance company is paying for our interim office space for both the church staff and MJCA.

***How will the insurance monies be utilized?***

Our pastor and staff, including Brig Thompson as Head of School of MJCA, alongside church leadership, including the Trustees, the Stewardship Team, and the Campus Planning Team, will be working collaboratively to plan and direct the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed facilities on campus. All funds provided by insurance will be directly used to repair, restore, and rebuild our campus. We are also pursuing funds available to non-profits (such as churches) from FEMA that will also be used in the repair of our campus.

***Where is the church office currently located?***

The church has secured temporary office space at 2033 N. Mount Juliet Road. This location is also serving as the temporary office space for MJCA. The church phone number has not changed. It is (615) 754-2525. The church staff are currently working from home due to the COVID-19 situation. Church offices will reopen when it is safe for staff to return. In the meantime, staff members can continue to be reached via e-mail or phone.

***How does the tornado damage and repair affect our campus growth plans?***

Despite the damage to our existing facility, we continue to plan for growth on our campus. Planning for a new worship center will continue in parallel with the rebuilding and restoration efforts from the tornado. We continue to move forward with the elements identified in the church’s long-range plan from 2007. Some of the campus repair efforts will allow us to make necessary updates to the existing buildings to bring them up to codes, including fire suppression and other safety measures, improve restroom facilities considerably, and modernize portions of the existing buildings.

***When will the rebuilding start, and how long will it take?***

We hope to begin rebuilding and repairing our damaged facilities as soon as we obtain approval from the insurance company. We envision that we can present more concrete plans and architectural drawings for the church to approve by the end of the summer.

**QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OF A WORSHIP CENTER**

***Will the congregation be able to give input and feedback on the building process?***

The church staff and Campus Planning Team will continue to provide updates to the church on a regular basis. Concept drawings and proposed layouts for the rebuilding of the education wings and the new worship center will be presented to the church for review. As with past initiatives, we anticipate providing some sort of forum for church members to ask questions and obtain clarifications once layouts and associated costs have been developed. The specific details of that forum and medium will be determined at a later date as we are able to get back to our customary way of life, worship and work. Church members will have the opportunity to vote on the spending associated with the new sanctuary before we begin.

***Will we have a capital campaign?***

Our Pastor and the Campus Planning Team, as well as the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, are currently in discussions regarding the most prudent and fiscally responsible approach for funding the campus growth. While no decisions have been made, it is likely that we will have a capital campaign to secure pledges to help cover the cost of any new facilities. Details regarding the financial plans will be made available for church review as soon as possible.

***Does the coronavirus change our plans?***

The virus pandemic does not change our plans regarding the growth of our church and our campus. The Campus Planning Team continues to meet with the Pastor and other church staff regularly. While accommodations for the virus have made certain elements of the planning efforts more challenging in the short-term, we remain steadfast in our commitment to moving forward.

**QUESTIONS REGARDING HOW WE ARE DOING MINISTRY NOW**

***What are our plans for worship services right now?***

Before the virus pandemic, we had planned to utilize facilities in the Mount Juliet community for in-person worship services. Until it is safe to meet again in-person, we intend to continue to have virtual worship services via Facebook Live. An announcement will be made via social media and the weekly e-mail when in-person services are able to resume, and the location details will be provided at that time.

***What about small groups during the virus pandemic?***

It is our hope that small groups will plan to connect via phone or video chat as often as possible. Small group leaders will be coordinating those meetings individually. If you need information about how to connect with a small group at this time, please let us know. We want you to be connected!

***What is MJCA doing right now?***

MJCA is conducting online classes for all grade levels. The school continues to fulfill its mission even during the quarantine. We are grateful for the leadership of our faculty and staff led by Mr. Brig Thompson. Let us continue to pray for them during these challenging times. We are also grateful for our dedicated teachers and all those who invest in the MJCA family.

***How is Rutland Place?***

We are very grateful that Rutland Place did not sustain any significant damage to its facilities that all of its residents were safe during the storm. Let’s pray for our seniors as they take extra precautions during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Many of them are members of our church family and we love them very much. We certainly want every resident to know of our love and ministry to them.

***How can I help?***

Please continue to pray for healing for all of those affected by the tornado as well as the pandemic. Also pray for our Pastor and staff, MJCA, and all of our ministries as they continue to lead us to make a kingdom impact in our ministry efforts. Although we are in a new normal, our heart and convictions about the gospel and the Great Commission have not changed.

Please continue to be faithful in your giving. We are grateful for the generosity of our church family! Tithes and offerings can be contributed online via the church website or by mail until the church offices reopen.

Also, make sure that you are connecting with us every Sunday for our online services. Make it a point to be in community with others through a small group. Please make sure that we have your latest contact information so we can make sure that we are in communication with you.

Finally, look for ways to be a blessing to someone in this time of need. May we let our lights shine for the gospel!