



Dr. Bob Lee, Senior Pastor  
January 13, 2021

Dear HRBC Family,

If you have teenage children or grandchildren, then you are aware of the stress that they experience. There are so many forces pressing in. Things were different when I was growing up. I am convinced that our children and youth are facing realities that I didn't see until I was an adult. Just this past week, for example, our nation's Capitol was overrun by rioters who were trying to disrupt the Electoral College process of our country's recent presidential election. When I was a teenager, we would not have heard anything until the evening news came on one of three television networks. But social media notifications deliver this kind of information in an instant to our young people. They are flooded with information and have to process it along with other pressures they face like SATs, AP History and Calculus, college applications and online haters. Imagine taking an exam after a class discussion related to the events of January 6th.

Please pray daily for our youth. Pray for our YMT (Youth Ministry Team, Jennie Clarke, leader), our Youth Bible study and small group leaders. Please pray for Aaron Everic, our Youth Pastor. Pray for our Youth Ministry volunteers who give of their time and energy so that our students have a safe place to just be themselves and know that they are loved and accepted no matter what. As a parent, I value the peace that God gives me, knowing that our daughter is loved and challenged.

In the same breath, please pray daily for our children. They, too, are experiencing stressors that most of us adults did not face at age 3, 5 or 9. The pandemic has exacerbated fear and stress. Like the older youth, the pandemic has disrupted their education. Many children have struggled with virtual learning. And for those who are in-person, can you imagine how difficult it is for a third-grader to wear a mask and maintain social distancing in school? I completely understand the need to take these measures because of the virus. But that doesn't diminish the stress and fear of our children. Please pray for our CMT (Children's Ministry Team, Kathy Robertson, leader), their Bible study leaders, and other volunteers. Pray for the transition process that our Personnel Team

will be leading along with CMT in the future. Pray that our children know they are loved and valued. Pray that they have a safe place at HRBC.

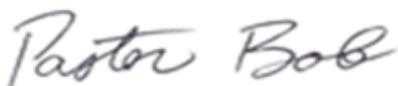
I recently read this in my morning devotional:<sup>1</sup>

One of the old English words for fear means “sudden attack.” It’s akin to an old German word that means “ambush or snare.” That’s what fear does; it attacks us and takes us captive. The writer continues, ‘So what’s the answer?’ Faith in God. Fear weakens, but faith strengthens. Fear imprisons, but faith liberates. Fear paralyzes, but faith empowers. Fear disheartens, but faith encourages. Fear sickens, but faith heals. It’s been said that the words ‘fear not’ are recorded in scripture 366 different times. If that’s so, God has given us a ‘fear not’ for every day of the year – and one for leap year! And here’s one of them: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.’ (Isaiah 43:1, NKJV)

When everything around you seems to be pressing in and when stress overwhelms, know that Jesus is your strength and peace. Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Remember Jesus’ promise: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

God’s peace,



[bob@hrbcrichmond.org](mailto:bob@hrbcrichmond.org) • 804-272-2072

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<sup>1</sup> *God’s Word for You Today*, January 11, 2021, p. 26.