

## Zoom Safety and FBCK

April 4, 2020

During these challenging times, it is important for everyone to stay connected to friends, family, and church. At FBCK, we are using Zoom conferencing technology in our Bible studies and other events as part of the connection process. We urge everyone to take advantage of these opportunities to share with others each week.

A report released this week by the FBI, along with subsequent news articles, have raised some concerns about the security of Zoom. Our trustees and IT experts were aware of these concerns even before the report's release. After due consideration of the technical issues, we concluded that our use of Zoom is consistent with FBI guidelines and it presents little risk to our church families and guests. This email is to give you transparency into that decision.

Because of the way we use Zoom, there is no cyber-threat to meeting participants. For instance, there is no way for a hacker to put a virus on your computer or steal your passwords through Zoom. We do urge everyone to follow good cybersecurity practices, such as the use of strong passwords and antivirus protection, but Zoom presents no new risk.

The primary concern raised in the report is "Zoombombing." This happens when an unwelcome person joins a meeting and then disrupts it, typically by using the screen share function to display offensive material. We had already taken behind-the-scenes measures to prevent Zoombombing. For instance, we disabled the ability of participants to share screens or transfer files unless they are first given permission by the host. Furthermore, hosts (or designates) can immediately mute, turn off video, or remove anyone that is disruptive. These measures follow the security recommendations given in the FBI report. We considered even stronger measures (for instance, distributing Zoom links only by email), but at this time those stronger measures don't seem warranted.

Church should be a place of sanctuary and peace of mind. We want everyone to join our Zoom meetings with confidence that they are in a safe place. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.



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