



Church Update



Dear First Baptist Family,

I was so pleased to see that many people took advantage of watching our online service on Sunday and it was great to see many of you in person.

It is now more and more apparent that our schedules and lives will be interrupted by the latest strand of the coronavirus. Let's pray that interruptions are the biggest problem caused in our lives by this disease.

Within 24 hours period, the federal and state governments tightened the recommended maximum gathering from no restrictions, to 50, and now to 10. No one has threatened to impose these restrictions, but as a church, we must consider how to respond. We must be determined to face this with wisdom, faith, and a desire to be a good witness, rather than fear.

We should desire to be good witnesses to our neighbors at all times and especially in these times. In these circumstances, I have become convinced that one way we can be a good witness is to voluntarily shut down our physical public gatherings. This tells our neighbors that we care about being a part of the solution to this pandemic and that even those of us who are unlikely to suffer severe symptoms care so much about those who may, that we will restrict our interactions with others for them.

I believe that halting our physical gatherings is a loving act that expresses our desire to honor God and serve our community. Therefore, for we will be taking the following measures:

- Sunday morning services will be broadcast online and we will limit those physically present to those whose presence is necessary for producing the live stream.
 - We will be streaming on our Facebook page.
- We will be canceling all midweek gatherings and Sunday school at least through March 29
 - We are looking into the possibility of live-streaming or posting a video Bible Study and hosting a “watch party” on Facebook or Youtube.
- Starting today through March 27, we will be keeping the church doors locked. We ask that you only come on campus if you have called ahead and arranged to meet a staff member here.

I want to encourage you not to worry or be anxious. Act with wisdom and trust the Lord. Consider how He might work through this. As your pace may need to slow in the coming days, take time to spend with the Lord, draw near to Him. Take some time to call your brothers and sisters and check in on them and encourage them. Also, look for opportunities to share the reason for your hope with those who lack it. Finally, do tune in to the live stream options we will be posting and consider inviting others to join you online as well. Last I checked, we had about 300 people watch some part of our service online this past Sunday. Many people are searching for answers to life’s big questions. Pray that they would find them in the gospel and that perhaps God would use our adapted ministries to reach them during this season.

Remember that our God works all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). We trust the Lord, that as individuals and a church family, we will be better off for having gone through this trying time. No doubt we will all have a new appreciation for the beauty of physically gathering together for worship, and most likely a better application for those whose health regularly impedes them from doing so.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Jesse

Click below to get to our Facebook page or Youtube channel.

