

Dear Congregation,

I want to remind you that Wednesday evening we will not be gathering as a group. Later, we'll be back in touch about our Sunday schedule.

These are new days and we're all discovering new ways of life for a short while, so I encourage you to consider new ways to be the church.

- **G**ather in small groups in your home, check on friends and neighbors, and do your part to be the church in a way we've not known, but also in a way I believe Christ intends us to be the church – intensely relational with himself and with one another
- though at a bit of a distance for the moment.

- **P**ray for one another and with one another even over the phone.

Let the church office know of any serious needs, although we will continue to be cautious about making visits.

- **J**oin the family on the church website (www.thefirstbaptistchurch.com). Watch services, give your offerings, and send in prayer requests online. You can always leave messages, emails, or texts for any of the staff with specific prayer needs. We will share those as appropriate.

- **B**e a witness in the way you serve, reach out, and even in the way you shop.

We will regularly provide updated church information as we have it available.

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the group phone calls we make, please have them let the church office know asap. I encourage you to be added to the list, even if temporarily so. It's a great way to get quick updates.

** Wednesday morning, I hope to be providing information on a church-wide prayer meeting phone call where we can all "be together" on the phone. Be on the watch for that information.*

The responses being put in place by public officials feel very dramatic but be reminded that *faithful Christians have no cause for panic*. The call of a Christian is to practice and demonstrate faith and the presence of Christ over any sort of fear.

In these moments, we are being made stronger in great confidence that God, who is deeply concerned about us, causes all things to work together as a divine plan for good in the lives of those who love Him. *Romans 8.28*.

We have no reason to fear, so let's be Christians who set the example of faith in the storm, who attract those who need assurance. And in that sense, this is a very exciting time for us to truly be the church as never before.

Many specifics we don't know, but we DO know the final outcome. Christ has called each of us to ministry and will call us home to Himself. May His call find us faithful and strong and never crouching in fear.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one.

The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.

When evil people attack me and try to kill me, they stumble and fall.

³ Even if a whole army surrounds me, I will not be afraid;

even if enemies attack me, I will still trust God

I know that I will live to see the Lord's goodness in this present life.

¹⁴ Trust in the Lord. Have faith, do not despair. Trust in the Lord.

God bless you all.

Greg Barmer

Online links for your convenience:

Church Home Page <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/index.html> Messages from the pastor will be posted here.

Right Now Media Info <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/rightnowmedia.html>

Give Your Offering <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/onlinegiving.html>

Send Prayer Requests <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/prayerrequests.html>

Find People <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/churchdirectory.html>

Electronic Newsletter <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/newsletter.html>

Archived Services <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/broadcastinfo.html> Info on cable channels that carry Sun. services

Services streamed live <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/livestreaming.html> Info coming soon on how to watch via Roku

Staff Contact Info <http://thefirstbaptistchurch.com/contactus.html>