



## SOUTH GEORGIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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March 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

After seeking the counsel of Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, and leaders, the SGBC ministerial staff has agreed that the prudent and right decision is for South Georgia Baptist Church to suspend our regular public gatherings through Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope we are able to return on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, but that decision will have to wait.

Making this decision has been agonizing, but we come to this conclusion at the Lord's clear direction. It is a Biblical decision based on Romans 13:1-7. We must be "subject to the governing authorities." Our President, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Surgeon General have all asked the citizens of the United States of America to limit social contact in order to curtail the spread of the virus. We will honor and cooperate with our leaders – the very leaders "that have been instituted by God."

The Lord has also commanded us to love one another. We have decided to suspend our corporate worship services and other meetings because we love one another, especially our senior saints. According to the experts, the oldest sector of our population is the most likely to be adversely affected by this nasty disease. So, in love for one another, we will practice prudence.

But, just because we are not going to meet on Sundays and Wednesdays does not mean that we are ceasing to be God's beloved church. We have a mission and a mandate! We must love one another, serve one another, and be light in utter darkness.

We will produce and distribute a video to lead in our worship at home. Casey is working to make this available to everyone before Sunday.

We will maintain regular office hours and be available to everyone. Call or come by.

We will communicate. Information will be posted on our web site, on our Facebook page, and sent via email. Of course, we will be available by phone. Feel free to call us at the church or on our cell phones. We are available and would love to hear from you.

And we are mobilizing our Deacons, Sunday School Teachers and other servants to actively minister to our membership and to our community. If you need help, please call. For

example, if you are a senior saint, we'd be glad to make a run to the pharmacy for you. Call upon us – we're family!

Since we're family, we're inviting everyone to get on the phone. Call your brothers and sisters! Yesterday, I talked to a member who was already feeling isolated and alone. That member was already hurting! Let's not let that continue! Please, love one another!

Last Sunday, the Lord challenged us to pray:

1. Ask God to stop this pandemic!
2. Ask God to give wisdom to government leaders.
3. Ask God to give us faith to replace our fear and hope to replace of our helplessness!
4. Ask God to direct His beloved church to see new opportunities to serve and to courageously, compassionately, and tirelessly be light in the darkness!
5. Ask God to use this event to bring about revival and great awakening, by turning the hearts of people worldwide to the only true God who heals, restores and gives life!

We must not live in fear. Our Faithful Father can use these events to bring glory to His Name... the Name that is above every other Name: Jesus!

In His Service,  
Mike