

Church Family,

Last night your staff and deacon leadership met for a time of Bible Study, prayer, discernment and decision concerning our next few days as a church.

I want to remind you what I told you last Sunday morning. It was determined that we would not meet on Wednesday or Sunday nights until at least Easter. And that we would communicate with you concerning Sunday mornings on a week to week basis to be announced by noon each thursday concerning the upcoming Sunday.

Today, Thursday, I am announcing to you that we will not meet at First Baptist Church this Sunday morning, March 22 for worship.

I know that you understand that this is a difficult time for our world, our nation and for the church. But, we need to be reminded that the new testament church has never been a location. The church is a people, it is a local body of believers who strive together for the sake of their own discipleship and to make disciples of all the nations.

And so, as we move forward in our plans during this time when we can't meet together it is these two things: Our Discipleship and the desire to Make Disciples that should occupy our minds.

Here is how we will help you in your discipleship as we move forward:

- **First, Read the Daily Bible Reading Plan Offered.** This week was Romans 1-5, Next week it is Romans 6-10 - Pray, Read, Journal and Worship Privately.
- **Second, we will offer to you Three Wednesday Discipleship Supplements:**
 - Each Wednesday, Deanna will record a devotion for our children, and we will provide this video through our website and social media.
 - Each Wednesday, Corbin will produce a devotion for our students, and we will provide this devotion through our website and social media.
 - Each Wednesday, I will produce a guided prayer time for our adults, and we will provide this devotion through our website and social media.
- **Third, we will offer you three Sunday Supplements:**
 - **First there will be a Short Worship/Encouragement** - Each Sunday a short worship service will be produced for our congregation to watch. So you can participate in worship, this resource will be placed on our website and social media.
 - **Second, Sunday School** - John Henry has agreed to teach his Sunday School Lesson with an invited class each week. This lesson will be recorded and placed on our website and social media.
 - **Third, we are encouraging a new ministry at FBC Called "Gather"** - In order to maintain a sense of community and family, each Sunday the congregation will be encouraged to gather together with another family or another member(s) of First Baptist Church, being sure not to violate the encouragement not to meet in groups over 10, you will meet together for the purposes of scripture reading and prayer.
 - We recognize that some of us may be uncomfortable doing this. So, we want to encouraged you to stay connected in other ways:
 - Maybe you could "gather" by calling your Sunday School Class, pray for each other over the phone.

- Maybe you could “gather” over Facetime to be reminded what each other looks like.
- And we will provide opportunities to “gather” as we interact with one another on our social media. - As we post videos and materials, share them, tag your friends and have conversations about the studies that we are offering.

It is so important during this time that we stay connected that we gather together, even if it means that we will have to gather electronically for a season.

Now, how do we “make disciples” in the midst of this time of confusion and distress. The answer is simple but requires that we leverage our words for the purpose of Christ.

The answer - Be the Salt and Light! I want to encourage you again to show the world, that even in the midst of the distress that we trust Jesus, that our joy is not dictated by our circumstances but as a result of what Christ has done for us!

Leverage your words on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram to show that you are the Salt and Light of the World. I want to encourage you even right now to do something: Go to your Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and simply write these words, “Jesus is my Hope and Joy!” Leverage your words for the Glory of God.

This is one way we can use our current circumstances to make disciples.

Another way is that you can continue to give to First Baptist Church: There are four ways that you can give to FBC Union.

- Text to Give - Text the word Give to 1-601-265-0717
- Online Giving - www.fbcunion.net Click “Giving”
- Mail your Gift - PO Box 129, Union, MS 39365
- Stop by the Office to Give - 308 Main Street, Union, MS 39365

We have reached out to many of the elderly in our community to see if there is any need that we might meet. If you know of any way that FBC could help, please let us know.

Keep being the church - Keep loving each other and this community. Grow in your discipleship and let’s influence the world and make disciples for His glory.

I love you, I am grateful for you! I hope to see each of you soon!