

Dear EBC Family,

ATTENTION: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update March 13, 2020

As we face an unprecedented reaction to the Coronavirus threat, we have found it needful to address questions and concerns that you may have about our church and ministries' response to this matter.

Governor Holcomb issued a statement yesterday, and in part said, "Non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people. This includes any event or gathering of people who are in one room or a single space at the same time, such as cafeterias, churches, stadiums, meeting and conference rooms, auditoriums and the like. This guidance applies to professional, social, community and similar other gatherings."

In addition, the Porter County Commissioners also issued a statement yesterday and said in part, "Individuals over 60 years of age or those with a known underlying health issue such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease should limit their public exposure."

The Indiana State Department of Health has also suggested that churches, etc. do the following:

- Stagger activities or add frequency of an event to spread out attendance;
- Encourage those in a high-risk group to not attend the event;
- Recommend that attendees stay home if they have a fever and/or respiratory symptoms;
- Practice social distancing, such as adding distance between where individuals sit or stand around tables, and also limit the number of people in lines;
- Avoid direct physical contact with others, such as hand-shaking, holding hands, and hugging.

In light of these statements Emmanuel Baptist Church of South Haven is taking the following measures:

- We will be postponing our church anniversary potluck dinner as well as our spring Sunday school campaign. The R.U. Refreshment Weekend is being rescheduled.
- The Master's Club Regional has been cancelled.
- We are cancelling our Sunday School hour for the next month.
- In order to allow social distancing, we will be having 2 morning service times:
 - 9:30 A.M. – early service (no nursery or children's church)
 - 10:45 A.M. – regular service (regular nursery and children's church)
- We also will suspend our handshaking times in the services.
- We will continue to have our regularly scheduled Sunday evening services and Wednesday night services.
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- We are cleaning touched surfaces, handrails, countertops, etc. between every service. In addition, we are propping open interior doors to avoid touching. We also will have plenty of hygiene stations.

We want to observe every caution, respect civil authorities, and honor God. During these fear-filled days, we want to encourage everyone to exercise wisdom and compassion.

Praying for you,

Pastor John Allen