

## **Emmanuel Baptist Church COVID-19 Update: 3/20/2020**

As confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise, and as guidelines/mandates from federal, state, and local authorities continue to be updated, as a church we have every intention to follow those who God has placed as authorities in our lives. (*Rom.13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-15*).

This COVID-19 Outbreak has been labeled as a National state of emergency. Governor Holcomb has issued an executive order (20-04) in which he ordered that Indiana will follow the recommendations of the CDC. President Trump also implemented "15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD." Both the President and CDC have given instruction that we avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

Aside from the mandates of government, we also have a Biblical mandate to care for those who are the most at risk in our church (*Matt.25:40; 1Tim.5:16; Gal.5:14*). While those who are older and weaker have a greater risk of consequences, those who are younger and stronger can still be carriers and spreaders of the virus. Therefore, we are urged not travel unless necessary; not to visit nursing homes, hospitals, or retirement communities. We are also to stay home if anyone in your household is sick.

With these things being said, our church is still instructed from the Word of God to corporately worship (*Heb.10:25*); albeit, at this time, it may only be where two or three are gathered together (*Matt.18:20*). We want to effectively worship and honor the Lord's Day even during these unusual and dire times.

As a result, we are curtailing our ministries and assemblies to comply with current health guidelines and will continue to do so until this crisis subsides, and we can safely assemble once again in person.

Therefore, due to these limitations we will continue to livestream the Sunday morning service at 10:45 A.M.; the Sunday night service at 6:00 P.M.; and the Wednesday night service at 7:00 P.M. on Facebook Live. But we will not have any onsite services until further notice.

Let me encourage you to purpose to sit down as a family during these services and watch and participate as though you were in the services. Let God minister to your hearts through His Word, the preaching, and the music. Feel free to post online that you are watching and listening. Even an "Amen" now and then would be edifying. Please participate in worship through your tithes and offerings through the "Donate" button at the bottom of the church website ([ebcsh.org](http://ebcsh.org)).

If you have needs that arise, we will be maintaining office hours (Monday – Friday; 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.) The deacons will be checking in with each of you regularly to see how everyone is doing and if there is anything we can do for you.

God bless each of you. I am praying for you.

Pastor John