

From Dr. Richard Seagle

Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church

New Bern, NC

Dear Church Family,

These are surely trying times and have required us to take actions we could have not imagined. It was our intent to keep our church open for worship through this crisis.

As you may know, the Governor issued recommendations for places of worship on Thursday that included not meeting in groups over 100 people. That of course affects every one of our normal Sunday and Wednesday meetings for worship, fellowship and Bible study.

Because this is such a difficult decision, our Deacon Chairperson, Ken Gray and I have consulted with deacon leaders and the other ministerial staff to determine our best response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Here are our decisions (next page):

1. We will suspend all Sunday and Wednesday Activities this week as suggested by the Governor's office. There will be a worship service at 11 am on Sunday that you can live stream at our church's website. There will be no choir or chancel bell choir, etc. We are asking all church members to stay home and worship through our streaming service at [www.fbchurch.com](http://www.fbchurch.com), or a week delayed at WCTI 12 television.

2. The congregation is encouraged to give online, by mail or by calling the church office and setting up a bank draft to keep the church financially stable through the crisis. You can also mail your tithes and offering to the church office at P.O. Box 1463, New Bern, NC 28563.

3. The congregation will be kept updated through the website, automated calls and social media.

Our staff and deacons will continue to discuss this issue and develop plans as the situation evolves. In the meantime, we ask you to act wisely in a way that honors the God we serve. The Holy Spirit led the apostle Paul to write these words: "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil 4:5b-6). The command is "do not be

anxious.” The means to obey this command is given next:  
PRAYER.

Please pray for one another and for the many medical professionals, public safety professionals, educators, missionaries, and others who are affected.

Pray for the Lord’s protection from illness among our people.

Pray for gospel opportunities to come from this outbreak.

Pray for wisdom regarding ministry impact in the event of local COVID-19 cases.

We want to be a church that reflects our trust in Jesus Christ and his love to our community.

Yours in Christ,

Richard