



Skyline Baptist Church

March 19, 2020

Dear Skyline Church Family,

These are truly interesting and extraordinary times.

In light of the contagious and serious nature of the Covid-19 virus, and the Governor's restriction on large gatherings over twenty-five, we will be temporarily suspending all church services and ministries (small group Bible studies may continue at the leader's discretion). Please know that this decision is not based on a fearful reaction to this virus, or a cowering to governmental authorities. It is simply a decision that we – the pastors and elders of Skyline – have made for the safety and health of our church members, and our community at large.

Let me encourage you to refrain from over-spiritualizing this outbreak, or our response to it. This is not Christian persecution – as cancelations and restrictions have spanned every category of events and gatherings across the globe (see Rom. 13:1). Nor is this a failure to obey God's command to assemble together as a church (e.g. Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 2:42) – as the local “church” is not restricted to a church building (e.g. Acts 2:46). We are fiercely committed to our gathering as a local church, but we must exercise wisdom and discretion for the sake of our church family. We also recognize the danger of a perceived precedent, and we assure you that we will be continuing to prayerfully monitor and evaluate any such decision in the future.

The word of God will be faithfully proclaimed each week, and we encourage you to listen to the sermons every Sunday (as they, along with worship songs, will be uploaded to our website on Sunday mornings by 9:30am; sbcnb.org/media). Also, be sure to know that our previous Sunday service is aired each and every Sunday at 11:00am on K-light (lighthouseaudio.com). For specific information and updates see our church website ([Coronavirus Response](#)).

In addition, during this time of separation, we will be providing you with biblical resources to help you stay connected to our fellowship and to grow in Christ. We simply cannot stress enough the importance of being faithful in prayer, and in reading, studying and meditating on God's Word. Let me also encourage you to seek new evangelistic opportunities, to pray for those who are sick and elderly among us, and to minister to those who are in need and/or alone (see 1Thess. 5:14-18).

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. 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. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

Please know that we are committed to praying for you during the weeks we are apart, and desiring to minister to you in any way possible. Feel free to contact any of the pastors (sbcnb.org/about-us/staff), or call the church office if you are in need (541-756-3311; office open M-F, 9am-3pm).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David