

# Terrell Bible Church

March 14, 2020

Dear TBC Family,

We are all aware of the current concern about the viral disease that has now reached America. The Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) is a disease that spreads more easily than a typical flu and it is more serious than a typical flu. It is especially serious because this is a new disease, and no one has immunity to it. At this time, there is no treatment or vaccine. It is especially dangerous to older people and to those with weakened immune systems.

Our governmental leaders, from the national level to the local level, are still in the process of developing a response to this serious outbreak. One response to this disease has been to prohibit or discourage large gatherings of people. By avoiding large gatherings that put people in close contact, it is hoped we can slow down the spread of this disease.

At TBC, we have decided that we have a responsibility to share in the effort to protect our members and the community as a whole. After prayerful consideration, we have decided to take some steps to avoid activities that could help spread the disease.

**Starting tomorrow, we will suspend Sunday school.** This is one area that we feel puts many people together in close contact. That is true in our adult class and it is also true in our children's classes where mature adults are in very close contact with children.

At this time, we will continue the worship services, but we encourage everyone to spread out. Also, beginning tomorrow, we will webcast our morning service live on the internet. Kyle will be sending out an email with details about that. If you are ill or want to avoid possible exposure, you can watch our service from home.

The Sunday evening service will continue. We will have a time to share prayer concerns in the evening as we usually do in Sunday school. If you are uncomfortable with the larger gathering on Sunday morning, the evening service could be an option for you.

We will also continue the Wednesday evening service, but we will move it to the sanctuary and ask people to spread out. This will be a time of study and prayer as it has been.

We can all share in the effort to slow down the spread of this serious illness. If you are not well, avoid others. Please do not come to church if you are sick. Many have reported that COVID-19 begins with symptoms of a mild cold.

The Lord is still in control. We have no reason to fear. At the same time, we are called to love one another, and we can do that by avoiding actions that could cause another to become sick.

We are also called to worship. We are commanded to not forsake assembling with the brethren (Hebrews 10:25). The actions we have described above are intended to help us continue to worship and serve in a way that honors the Lord.