



# March 18 Update

## From Pastor Jay

March 18, 2020

Dear First Baptist Family,

I wanted to provide you with the latest information regarding important changes in our normal weekly church schedule.

After meeting with our staff and church response team, it was deemed prudent and socially responsible to suspend regular campus activities over the next two week period, from March 18th until April 3rd. As mentioned last week, this has been a very fluid situation with changes occurring at a national level on a daily, sometimes hourly basis. We were preparing to go forward this week with our modified public Sunday morning worship schedule. However, when the President, in a national effort to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, released new guidelines on Monday, which included a 15-day pause on gatherings of more than 10 individuals in a group, we felt the need to adjust our weekly schedule accordingly. Again, it is our goal to be both socially responsible and civilly cooperative in loving our community, protecting our families and doing our part as a church body, to help limit the spread of this very contagious virus.

Please also be aware of two other important items:

**First, we will be sharing our morning worship service on Sunday, March 22nd and Sunday, March 29th online.** You can worship along with us “in real time” at 11:00am on each of those respective Sundays. In fact, I want to encourage you to gather as a family and worship online with our extended church family, watching from all around our community. To participate, just open Facebook on your phone, iPad, etc., and type into the search box, “first baptist npr”. You may need to scroll down a bit once on our church Facebook page, but you’ll soon find our service from our worship center on campus. The recording of this service will then also be available on our church website, [fbcnpr.com](http://fbcnpr.com), later in the day.

**Second, we have a great need, possibly more than ever before, to each be faithful in our financial support of First Baptist New Port Richey.** I want to thank you as your pastor, especially during this unusual time, for honoring the Lord with His tithe and offerings by giving online through our website (choose the “give” tab), by mailing your tithe envelope to the church, or by bringing it to the church during our regular office hours.

We will continue to update you on social media, our church web page, and by email as necessary. We are also looking at other ways for various groups in the church to still study the Bible and fellowship together through resources like Zoom, Google Hangouts, and Google Duo.

Finally, in February, Shirley and I had the blessing of joining some of our families on a cruise. We had never been on a cruise before. It was a different experience for both of us. One morning I was fellowshiping with a couple and I said, “We’ll, whatever happens, we’re all on this boat together.” And I would say to our church family, “We don’t know what tomorrow holds for us, but praise God, we know Who holds tomorrow.” God is good, all the time! He is in control and He is always on Heaven’s Throne. May the Lord bless you. We’re all in this together!

With great love for each of you,  
Pastor Jay