

A Message from the Elders of New Life

In light of the ongoing efforts by our government to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we are taking the following steps as a church. We, the elders, will meet again on March 29th to review and reevaluate according to the situation at that time.

1. We will be closing our building through March 31st, to all activities. We do not feel that we can keep the building sufficiently sanitized in all areas to continue to use it for the variety of church, personal, and community events that it is regularly used for.
2. This means that we will not be having church services in the building on March 22nd or March 29th. **We will have online video services on those days at the normal time (9:00am).** You will find links to the online services on our website (www.newlifebellville.com) and on our church Facebook page.
3. We are encouraging the Discipleship Groups to continue meeting. There is great value in encouraging one another and these groups are essential for staying connected with the body of Christ. Of course, we expect everyone to make your own decisions and to use common sense when it comes to physically meeting. You can keep in contact through phone and digital media as well.
4. We are aiming to have the capacity to accept online giving by Sunday. The truth is that the bills continue whether we meet or not, and so we encourage you to send in your tithes and offerings by mail if not online.
5. We expect that in the days to come there will be growing needs in our church and community. We want to be able to maximize our ability to help, and so are putting our search for a new staff member on hold. Our thought is that the funds currently marked for salary will be freed up to help others.
6. The leadership will be reaching out to members in a number of ways.
 - a. We will be posting regular updates online and so we encourage you to follow our Facebook page and regularly visit our website for updates. Also, if you have not downloaded the church app, we encourage you to do that as well. You can get assistance with this through the church office.
 - b. We are calling people. If you do not receive a call from someone in the church, please call the office so we can know that you are ok and that we can verify we have your correct contact info.
 - c. Through the Discipleship Groups keeping in contact with their members.
7. Finally, we encourage all of you to look for ways that you can reach out to those around you. Are your neighbors ok? Do you have elderly friends that might need you to pick up things for them at the store? Can you talk with someone who is afraid and encourage them in the Lord?

Here are 3 things that we know. 1. This too shall pass. This situation is not an attack on the church nor is it something that will bring civilization as we know it to an end. It is a season of time that we will endure together. 2. The Lord is still in control. Over the last couple of weeks, we have all had the illusion of control ripped away from us. We don't have control over this life. But we know who does and we have his promise to never leave us or forsake us. 3. This is an opportunity for God's People to shine. The world is in panic, but we have a chance to serve and to love and to show them God's care for us all.