

Dear Church Member:

As you are already aware, the world we live in, our nation, our community, and our church is experiencing something we have never gone through before, Covid-19. The coronavirus is affecting our personal lives, our jobs, our socialization, and our economy.

Subsequently, we want St. Paul Baptist Church members to be aware of what they can do to work together so we can get through this adversity. There are a few things that I want each of us to know and do:

- As Believers, according to Matt. 5:13-16, we are the light of the world; we are the salt of the earth. In this time of crisis, the church (e.g. believers in Christ) should stand out and impact the communities in which we live. As light, we are to show the way and as salt, we are to preserve what is good. This means that we need to make sure our testimony exalts God and edifies people.
- Keep yourselves safe. There are websites that explain what the virus is, how it can be contracted, and how we can protect ourselves as well as others. Some of the better ones are: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> <https://www.who.int/> Please stay informed!
- Please support your church. I realize the coronavirus is taking a toll on us physically and economically. Many people are being laid off or are unable to work because of the virus. This means that our church has an extra role to play. Not only do we need to take care of our own responsibilities, (paying the bills, church staff, utilities, and ministry needs), in addition, we have to help those who are affected, members and non-members. Please continue to give your tithes and offerings. This can be done through the church website or simply mailing them in. I cannot stress how important this is to the life of our church and our witness.
- Please make sure you encourage, support, and continue to communicate with each other. We are the body of Christ, the family of God. We are not independent; we are interdependent on each other. Please continue to be there for one another, especially now.
- Until we are able to come back into corporate worship, let's take advantage of what God has provided us. I will be recording our Sunday message and it will be up on our church website each Sunday by 11:00 a.m. We will also record a Bible study that will be on the Sunday School Lesson for that week. It will be on our web page by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Please continue to worship utilizing these means. If you know of someone who is unable to access the website, please do what you can to assist them to do so.

Finally, if we work together, with God's help we can overcome anything and everything, including Covid-19. Philippians 4:13, reads, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Be blessed as we go through this storm together.