



March 16, 2020

Dear Church Family,

These genuinely are unprecedented times. As people of faith, it's vital that we keep our hope in the Lord, look for ways to love our neighbor, and stay connected to our church family during this uncertain season. I'm writing today to assure you that NRBC will continue to live our mission to **"Make Disciples that Make Disciples"** by Reaching Up, Reaching In, and Reaching Out; even if we have to do so in some new and creative ways over the next few weeks. Here are a few important things you should know during this time.

Effective communication is going to be vital. We will not be able to send out letters like this with every update. However, we will have multiple ways we communicate as a congregation to ensure everyone knows what is happening. Major updates will be sent via email. If you did not get an email from Pastor Ryan on Thursday and Saturday last week, please first check your spam/junk folder to ensure they are not being sent there and then email info@nansemondriver.com to let us know you are not getting emails from us. We will update your information. We've also created a page on our website where we will post all updates. You can access this page at www.nansemondriver.com/covid-19. Finally, we will utilize our Facebook and Twitter pages. If you are on social media, make sure you follow us.

We will continue to offer service each Sunday, but you may only be allowed to participate virtually. We recognize this is not ideal, but, in keeping with Romans 13, we will follow the guidance of our government as to if a church our size should meet. Even if our government does not mandate this of our church, our elders may choose to only offer an online service to ensure we limit the spreading of COVID-19. We will announce our plans for Sunday service no later than Thursday morning each week. Online services will be available, as usual, at www.nansemondriver.com/live-stream and on Facebook. Recorded sermons are available at www.nansemondriver.com/sermons. We've canceled all other weekly activities for at least the next two weeks.

The church stands ready to help if you find yourself in need. If you are self-quarantined and need food, supplies, or medicine, please let us know by contacting the church office. **Please do not hesitate to take us up on this offer.** We have people who have volunteered to help. If the government mandates nonessential businesses to close, our office will close. However, you can still call the church office, and a recording will give you instructions on how to get a message to us.

To ensure the ongoing work of our congregation, your continued giving is essential. Our staff is limiting all spending that is not necessary at this time. However, financial resources will be required to help those in need and to stay current on our bills and payroll. Fortunately, our congregation has made wise decisions with reserve funds, so we will not run out of money anytime soon. Your continued giving during this time will ensure that day never comes. If you've not already done so, you can set up online giving from the homepage of our website. You can also mail your tithes and offerings to the church office.

We are working to make additional resources available to you during this time. We are planning online devotions a few times a week in addition to Sunday service, working to make family ministry resources available for family Bible study, and brainstorming other ideas to keep you encouraged, spiritually fed, and engaged in our mission.

Finally, please remember that all of these precautions are a way for us to love one another, love our neighbor, and guard the most vulnerable among us. This trying time for our nation is an opportunity for Christians to speak truth, demonstrate God's love, and encourage one another in the gospel of Christ. We will get through this, and the Lord will be glorified by His Church in the midst of it.

Together In Christ,

Elders of Nansemond River Baptist Church