

The Staff, Deacons and Treasurer met (via Zoom Call) to discuss events and activities as they relate to the most recent order by Governor Cooper (Executive Order No. 121 – [you can read it by clicking here](#)).

Please read the info below and help us make sure other Bethany members are aware of the info in this update as well.

GENERAL CHURCH OPERATIONS

- Due to mandatory Stay-At-Home orders **all** services, activities and ministries **through April 30, 2020** are **cancelled/postponed**. See below for details related to specific events, ministries and activities
- The building is closed except to essential staff and needs (giving, accessing mailboxes, cleaning, maintenance, etc.) until April 30, 2020. This includes **all** meetings, special events, private parties, gatherings, etc.
- See financial update and updated GIVING options below
- Ministry Assistant Daryl is now working remotely and can be reached at her email wearebethany@gmail.com
- Our leaders will meet again at the end of April and reevaluate plans for May/summer once we have more information

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Many have asked how the church is doing financially thus far and I am happy to report that right now the church is doing well because you all have continued to give faithfully despite not being able to meet. (WELL DONE CHURCH FAMILY!!) For us to continue doing well, however, we need everyone to continue giving. See updated giving arrangements below.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR GIVING (UPDATED WITH NEW ORDER IN MIND)

Please make sure you help us share this information as MANY people have asked how they can still give when we are not gathering together. Here are several different ways to give:

1. Auto-Draft/"Recurring Payment"/"Bill Pay"

Most banks allow you to have your tithes sent directly to the church similar to how "Bill Pay" works. It is typically free for you and the church (no fees). Go online to your bank's Bill Pay option, give them the name of the church, the address and let them know when you want the draft to be made based on when you're paid and for how much (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.).

2. Mail tithes/offerings to the church

3. Drop tithes/offerings off:

- o Sundays 4-5pm (Note the new time. Pull up to the glass doors between the FLC and Education Wing and someone will meet you at your vehicle)

NOTE: The Executive Order still allows visiting a place of worship, so you are allowed to drive by the church during this time.

4. Online Giving (Hopefully coming NEXT WEEK!)

We are in Beta testing and finalizing details right now and hope to have this option available ASAP! Through online giving you can give one-time, give manually each pay period, or similar to bank auto-draft, you can set up automatic payments. We will release the details with instructions as soon as this option goes LIVE.

5. Text Giving (Hopefully NEXT WEEK!)

This will be launched at the same time as online giving. We will have instructions for this as well once it goes LIVE.

Bethany Baptist Church

3417 Rolesville Road

Wendell, NC 27591

CHURCH "GATHERINGS" (WE CAN #StayApartTOGETHER)

From the COVID-19 threat's earliest stages we have been working non-stop to open as many channels as possible for us to continue "gathering" and connecting together as a body. Let's Stay Apart together! Connect with us:

- **SERMON CONTENT.** We have been posting our video sermons online and providing weekly discussion questions (in the video descriptions) each week on Sundays. You can find the sermons on our Facebook account or our YouTube Channel ([click here to access that](#)). We also hope to begin posting sermons on our webpage soon.

- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.** Here are **FOUR ways** you can utilize the discussion questions at home:
 1. *Use them to talk together as a family. We even provide a few questions for kids each week*
 2. *Organize an online discussion group (free group video chat options: Google Hangouts, Facebook Messenger, Skype, Zoom)*
 3. *Small Groups can use them for discussions in lieu of using curriculum (one “pro” for this is that it allows more engagement online versus “sit and listen”)*
 4. *Use them for personal journaling*
- **SMALL GROUPS.** We have been testing Small Groups remotely using Zoom with a few groups and have had great success with that platform. We are reaching out to all Small Group leaders this week to coordinate platforms and times for them to meet. Those leaders will then be in touch with class members and other individuals not yet plugged in. **If you know someone in our church not yet plugged in to your group or some friends outside our church who you think would enjoy being part of these groups, please invite them!** Small Groups can lead groups using their curriculum OR have everyone watch the sermon online then meet together to discuss using the questions provided.
- **TEENS.** Pastor Jason has begun hosting weekly Refuge Remote meetings via Zoom. For more info contact him at 254-592-1278 or Angie Strickland at 919-427-6164.
- **KIDS.** We will begin streaming some Bethany Kids’ content very soon! We will let you know when the first installment is available.
- **OUTREACH. YOU Can (and SHOULD) find ways to creatively connect with your “ONE”.** Our challenge to pray, invest in, intentionally reach and invite our “ones” is NOT over because we cannot meet together. Consider creative ways to connect with your One: Invite them to a cup of coffee (each of you get your cup of coffee at home and meet via FaceTime, Messenger, Skype, etc.), call them and ask how you can pray for them, work toward having a Gospel Conversation with them, etc.
- **YOU Can Organize Your Own Bible Studies or Sermon Discussion Groups Remotely!!** Text some friends (maybe even your “ONE”) and ask...
 1. ... if they want to meet remotely to discuss Discussion Questions after watching the sermon
 2. ... if they want to do a free devotional with you using the YouVersion Bible app. The app allows you to do a study with others right there on the app! Here’s how:
 - a. OPEN the app >> go to “Plans” in the menu >> click “find plans” tab (then search their 10,000+ free devotionals to find one you want to do) >> click “share” to invite others.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (UPDATED)

Things That Have Been Postponed **(Makeup Dates TBD):**

- DNOW
- Exploring: My Next Steps Class
- Cantata
- Missions’ Fundraiser
- Craft Expo
- Missions Sunday (“MissioDei”)
- Baptism Sunday

Things That Have Been Cancelled:

- Bethany Kids’ Choirs for remainder of year
- AWANA for remainder of year (Pastor Jason and Elaine will be in touch with clubbers regarding plans for finishing books and awards)
- AWANA Derby
- Easter at Bethany (We will have Sermon online)

Things Unaffected Thus Far **(but now under advisement):**

- Vacation Bible School (dates being finalized)
- Broyhill Mission Trip (July 17-19)

VISITATIONS

Due to the stay-at-home order ALL visitations must cease unless it is to help care for someone in need, and only with their expressed permission (or the permission of the family). Many family members of those in higher risk categories have asked that we limit visitors to help protect their loved ones. Even though physical visitations are suspended, please DO continue to reach out to them by phone/text to check on them, visit with them, pray with them and let them know they are on your heart.

DO NOT FORGET THIS: WE ARE (STILL) BETHANY!

Understand that even though we cannot formally gather together on Sundays, we are still the church and we can (and MUST) still worship! **Regulations do not prevent worship; they merely require us to think more creatively and step outside the box of our established programs and ministries.** As difficult as this season is, it is in-fact **a tremendous opportunity for us as Christians to really think like missionaries in how we will creatively gather and reach our neighbors if we do not have centralized buildings or programs to invite them to.** We Are (STILL) Bethany.