

12/31/2020



Dear Severna Park Baptist Church Family,

We hope this note finds you in good spirit and health. We do have unfortunate news to share, that some of our recent worship attendees have suddenly experienced symptoms of illness and a few have recently tested positive for covid-19 this week. We are not disclosing names but do count it our responsibility to notify our faith community that you may have been in contact with these persons if you attended services with us on December 23, 24, or 27.

Please know we care not just for your spiritual health, but your physical health. Therefore, we are taking the following steps and ask for your cooperation:

- We request all who attended any above listed service to **self-monitor your health for the next 10-14 days**. If symptoms develop, please self-isolate and consider getting tested. Also, notify anyone you have come in contact about your condition, so they can follow the same guidance. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>.
- We request your **prayers for good health and healing in our church family**. When one part of the body hurts, the whole body suffers (1 Corinthians 12:26). We love each member and friend of SPBC. Our leadership team is praying and available to minister to needs as made known. Please do not hesitate to contact us so we can be aware and attentive to care for one another. Further, know our intention will not be to publicize anyone's health information without your request or consent.
- We are **canceling all in-person gatherings and services from January 3, 2021 through January 9**. We ask that all other in-person ministry gatherings remain self-isolated through January 8.
- We are **doubling cleaning efforts and sanitizing of high frequency touch areas in our building**. One of our church family friends has a cleaning company that

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has a special spray disinfectant that we are applying in the sanctuary and seating areas. We are confident to continue providing a safe and clean environment for public gathering.

- **For Sunday, January 3, we encourage a few ways to remain connected.**
  - Bible Groups are encouraged to meet via ZOOM, or another social platform. Some may choose to meet virtually at regular time or a different time; and others may choose not to meet. Stay in touch with your group leader and they will likely be sharing information.
  - Churchwide gathering via ZOOM at 10:45am:  
<https://zoom.us/j/95935594324>  
You can join us as early as 10:30am simply by clicking the link. Please remain on mute unless called upon by the virtual host.  
We will have Scripture reading and message from Jeremiah 29:1-14. Pastor Dave will also facilitate some discussion around the passage and a time of prayer together. We will also try to record the virtual gathering and post on our YouTube for later viewing or persons unable to join by ZOOM.
  - Have a “High 5” over this next week and contact five persons in our church family. You’ll encourage someone and be blessed in return.
- We are hopeful to return to worship gathering on Sunday, January 10, and regular schedule beyond. However, we will maintain communication as time continues if anything should change.

In all, we know this news has the potential to cause alarm. No one wants to be sick and nobody intends to spread a virus to others. The Covid-19 virus is highly contagious. Individual cases while important and never to be minimized, are unfortunately to be expected. Yet, we must all do our part to follow best healthcare guidelines to preserve our health and protect the health of others, especially those most vulnerable around us.

**Our church guidelines remain unchanged and we ask that all persons...**

- Wear a mask while entering and participating in our facility. Please help us maintain a safe environment for others. While persons may have freedoms and rights, those should not be used to the neglect of compassion for others. It is

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not our aim to be legalistic with civil authorities, but we do desire everyone to be responsible in following these guidelines.

- Maintain social distancing of six feet from those not in your household.
- Sanitize and/or wash your hands as you interact with others or have contact with high touch spaces.
- Above all, if you have any ill symptoms or a fever above one-hundred degrees, please stay home to monitor your health and follow professional medical advice.
- And for our members and friends who are high risk or choose not to attend services due to health conditions in your context, please know we trust your decision and care for you. We do not want to intentionally cause you to feel excluded or devalued. Please continue communicating and help us see ways we can serve you and encourage your faith.

Praying the shalom peace of God in Christ Jesus, from head to toe in our church body.

*David W. Brown*

David W. Brown  
Lead Pastor

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